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MINUTES
OF A
CONSPIRACY
AGAINST THE
LIBERTIES OF AMERICA.



Philadelphia:
JOHN CAMPBELL.
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P R E F A C E .

SHOULD the learned reader find these pages crude, trite and meagre, it is hoped he may stay his "vengeful hand," when he is told they were compiled by a mere apprentice in the field of knowledge, and amidst avocations far removed from the paths of literature.

Should it, again, be objected that accusations such as contained in the pamphlet here republished had better have been left unrecorded, it is humbly submitted, that he who writes history should write it truly, and that the perfect statue gives a better idea of the subject than a basso-relievo.

W.





INTRODUCTION.

“ONGRESS, I doubt not, will have heard of the plot that was forming among many disaffected persons in this city and government for aiding the King's troops upon their arrival. No regular plan seems to have been digested; but several persons have been enlisted and sworn to join them. The matter, I am in hopes, by a timely discovery, will be suppressed and put a stop to. Many citizens and others, among whom is the mayor, are now in confinement. The matter has been traced up to Governor Tryon; and the mayor appears to have been a principal agent between him and the persons concerned in it. The plot had been communicated to some of the army, and part of my guard engaged in it. Thomas Hickey, one of them, has been tried, and by the unanimous

unanimous opinion of a court-martial, is sentenced to die, having enlisted himself, and engaged others. The sentence, by the order of the whole council of general officers, will be put in execution to-day at eleven o'clock. The others are not tried. I am hopeful this example will produce many salutary consequences, and deter others from entering into the like traitorous practices."¹

So, on the 28th June, 1776, wrote Washington to the President of the Congress, then sitting at Philadelphia, respecting a conspiracy, whose story is thus related by the latest of his biographers :

"The wildest reports," says Washington Irving, "were in circulation concerning it. Some of the Tories were to break down King's Bridge, others were to blow up the magazines, spike the guns, and massacre all the field-officers. Washington was to be killed or delivered up to the enemy. Some of his own body-guard were said to be in the plot.

Several publicans in the city were pointed out, as having aided or abetted the plot. One was landlord of the Highlander, at the corner of Beaver Street and Broadway. Another dispensed liquor under the sign of Robin Hood. Another named Lowry, described

as

¹ Sparks's *Washington*, III, 140-1.

as a "fat man in a blue coat," kept tavern in a low house opposite the Oswego market. Another, James Houlding, kept a beer house in Tryon Row, opposite the gates of the upper barracks. It would seem as if a net work of corruption and treachery had been woven throughout the city by means of these liquor dealers. One of the most noted, however, was Corbie, whose tavern was said to be "to the south-east of General Washington's house, to the westward of Bayard's Woods, and north of Lifpenard's Meadows," from which it would appear that, at that time, the general was quartered at what was formerly called Richmond Hill; a mansion surrounded by trees, at a short distance from the city, in rather an isolated situation.

A committee of the New York Congress, of which John Jay was chairman, traced the plot up to Governor Tryon, who, from his safe retreat on ship-board, acted through agents on shore. The most important of these was David Matthews, the tory mayor of the city. He was accused of disbursing money to enlist men, purchase arms, and corrupt the soldiery.

Washington was authorized and requested by the committee to cause the mayor to be apprehended, and all his papers secured. Matthews was at that time
residing

residing at Flatbush, on Long Island, at no great distance from General Greene's encampment. Washington transmitted the warrant of the committee to the general on the 21st, with directions that it should "be executed with precision, and exactly by one o'clock of the ensuing morning, by a careful officer."

Precisely at the hour of one, a detachment from Greene's brigade surrounded the house of the mayor, and secured his person; but no papers were found, though diligent search was made.

Numerous other arrests took place, and among the number some of Washington's body-guard. A great dismay fell upon the tories. Some of those on Long Island, who had proceeded to arm themselves, finding the plot discovered, sought refuge in woods and morasses. Washington directed that those arrested, who belonged to the army, should be tried by a court-martial, and the rest handed over to the secular power.

According to statements made before the committee, five guineas bounty was offered by Governor Tryon to each man who should enter the King's service; with a promise of two hundred acres of land for himself, one hundred for his wife, and fifty for each child. The men thus recruited were to act on shore, in co-operation with the King's troops when they came.

Corbie's

Corbie's tavern, near Washington's quarters, was a kind of rendezvous of the conspirators. There one Gilbert Forbes, a gunsmith, "a short, thick man, with a white coat," enlisted men, gave them money, and "swore them on the book to secrecy." From this house a correspondence was kept up with Governor Tryon on shipboard, through a "mulatto-colored negro, dressed in blue clothes." At this tavern it was supposed Washington's body-guards were tampered with. Thomas Hickey, one of the guards, a dark-complexioned man, five feet six inches high, and well set, was said not only to be enlisted, but to have aided in corrupting his comrades; among others, Greene the drummer, and Johnson the fifer.

It was further testified before the committee, that one Sergeant Graham, an old soldier, formerly of the royal artillery, had been employed by Governor Tryon to prow around and survey the grounds and works about the city, and on Long Island, and that, on information thus procured, a plan of operations had been concerted. On the arrival of the fleet, a man-of-war should cannonade the battery at Red Hook; while that was doing, a detachment of the army should land below with cannon, and by a circuitous march surprise and storm the works on Long-

Island. The shipping, then, with the remainder of the army, were to divide, one part to run up the Hudson the other up the East River; troops were to land above New York, secure the pass at King's Bridge, and cut off all communication between the city and country.¹

Much of the evidence given was of a dubious kind. It was certain that persons had secretly been enlisted, and sworn to hostile operations, but Washington did not think that any regular plan had been digested by the conspirators. "The matter," wrote he, "I am in hopes, by a timely discovery, will be suppressed."²

According to the mayor's own admission before the committee, he had been cognizant of attempts to enlist Tories and corrupt Washington's guards, though he declared that he had discountenanced them. He had on one occasion, also, at the request of Governor Tryon, paid money for him to Gilbert Forbes, the gunsmith, for rifles and round bored guns which he had already furnished, and for others which he was to make. He had done so, however (according to his account), with great reluctance, and after much hesitation and delay, warning the gunsmith that he would be hanged if found out. The mayor with a number of others, were detained in prison to await a trial.

Thomas

¹ Am. Arch. 4th series, vi, 1177.

² Washington to the President of Congress, June 28.

Thomas Hickey, the individual of Washington's guard, was tried before a court-martial. He was an Irishman, and had been a deserter from the British army. The court-martial found him guilty of mutiny and sedition, and treacherous correspondence with the enemy, and sentenced him to be hanged.

The sentence was approved by Washington, and was carried promptly into effect, in the most solemn and impressive manner, to serve as a warning and example in this time of treachery and danger. On the morning of the 28th, all the officers and men off duty, belonging to the brigades of Heath, Spencer, Stirling and Scott, assembled under arms at their respective parades at 10 o'clock, and marched thence to the ground. Twenty men from each brigade, with bayonets fixed, guarded the prisoner to the place of execution, which was a field near the Bowery Lane. There he was hanged in the presence, we are told, of near twenty thousand persons.

While the city was still brooding over this doleful spectacle, four ships of war, portentous visitants, appeared off the Hook, stood quietly in at the Narrows, and dropped anchor in the bay.

In his orderly book, Washington expressed a hope that the unhappy fate of Thomas Hickey, executed
that

that day for mutiny, sedition and treachery, would be a warning to every soldier in the line, to avoid the crimes for which he suffered."

Mr. Irving then adds the following note: "As a specimen of the reports which circulated throughout the country, concerning this conspiracy, we give an extract from a letter, written from Wethersfield, in Connecticut, 9th of July, 1766, by the Reverend John Marsh.

"You have heard of the infernal plot that has been discovered. About ten days before any of the conspirators were taken up, a woman went to the general and desired a private audience. He granted it to her, and she let him know that his life was in danger, and gave him such an account of the conspiracy as gained his confidence. He opened the matter to a few friends, on whom he could depend. A strict watch was kept night and day, until a favorable opportunity occurred; when the general went to bed as usual, arose about two o'clock, told his lady he was a going, with some of the Provincial Congress, to order some Tories seized — desired she would make herself easy, and go to sleep. He went off without any of his aides-de-camp, except the captain of his life guard, was joined by a number of chosen men, with lanterns, and proper instruments

instruments to break open houses, and before six o'clock next morning, had forty men under guard at the City Hall, among whom was the mayor of the city, several merchants, and five or six of his own life-guard. Upon examination, one Forbes confessed that the plan was to assassinate the general, and as many of the superior officers as they could, and to blow up the magazine upon the appearance of the enemy's fleet, and to go off in boats prepared for that purpose to join the enemy. Thos. Hickey, who has been executed, went from this place. He came from Ireland a few years ago. What will be done with the mayor is uncertain. He can't be tried by court-martial, and it is said, there is no law of that colony by which he can be condemned. May he have his deserts."¹

Under date of July 4th, 1776, Christopher Marshall records: "Accounts from New York are, that, Friday last, one of General Washington's guard was executed in a field near that city for mutiny and conspiracy, he being one of those who had formed a plot to assassinate the staff officers, blowing up the magazines and securing the papers of the town on the arrival of the Tyrant George the Third's fleet before this city."

The

¹Irving's Washington, ii, 242, 247.

The reader may also consult Thatcher, Gordon, Watson and Force's Archives; from the latter of which, however, copious extracts may be found in the notes appended.

Respecting the charge against the morality of Washington — often asserted by his contemporaries — whether true or not, and we should be loathe to believe it, it must be recollected, that at that day a laxness of social virtue was not visited with so severe a censure as it is in our own time — and that some of the prominent men of the age were not proof against temptation, we know from the confessions of Hamilton and the intrigues of Burr.



MINUTES
OF THE
TRIAL AND EXAMINATION
OF
CERTAIN PERSONS,
IN THE
PROVINCE OF NEW YORK,
CHARGED WITH BEING ENGAGED IN A
CONSPIRACY against the AUTHORITY,
of the CONGRESS,
AND
The LIBERTIES of AMERICA.



L O N D O N :
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M DCC LXXXVI.

[Price ONE SHILLING.]

ERRATA.

Page 5. line 12, for *insiduous*, read *insidious*. P. 12. l. 15. for *dissolve*
r. *disclose*. P. 6. l. 10, for *ever*, r. *even*. P. 8, l. 11, for *Distress*
County, r. *Dutchess County*. P. 8, l. 20, after *brewhouse* *dele* the; and
read *one* o'clock in the morning.

P R E F A C E .

WHILE the city of New-York was in the possession of the American army, great numbers of the inhabitants were seized, accused of being concerned in a conspiracy, and sent prisoners into Connecticut. Some were brought to a trial, found guilty, and condemned as traitors. Great discoveries, it was said, were made of plots against the congress. But the trial of the culprits was managed with so much secrecy that nothing of consequence transpired; so that many were induced

(iv)

induced to believe, that it was an artful scheme of the congress and committee to punish their internal enemies, or prevent them from doing mischief, without alarming the body of the people.

The following minutes throw much light on the affair. They were discovered (on the late capture of New-York by the British troops) among the papers of a person who appears to have been secretary to the committee. They will furnish entertainment to those who wish to know the particulars of this mysterious transaction.

MI-

M I N U T E S

OF THE

COMMITTEE, &c.

WILLIAM COLLIER (waiter at the Serjeant's Arms Tavern, kept by Alexander Sinclair, near the old Barracks) waited upon Joseph Smith, Esq., in the city, and informed him, that he had some affairs of great importance to communicate to him if he could depend upon being secured himself from danger. Upon which Mr. Smith gave him all possible assurances, that so far from being punished, he should be considerably rewarded if his discoveries were of any importance. Encouraged by this, he said, that a number of the inhabitants of the city had met for many months at the house aforesaid, that having heard them during his attendance speak very often disrespectful of the congress, and perceiving them very much engaged in writing letters, and remarking that they always suspended their conversation or spoke reservedly when he was present, his suspicions were excited that they did not meet merely for entertainment. On
which

which he concealed himself in an adjoining chamber, and, among other things, heard them speak of an engagement which had been entered into in that and the neighboring province to free themselves from what they called the damnable oppression of the congress; that he understood from their conversation, that arms were distributed among their partizans, and that a correspondence was established between them and the army, and that they had formed a design of rising and making themselves masters of some of the principal persons in the army of the American States, and escaping to Staten Island; that he learned from their conversation, that a correspondence for this purpose had been kept up between them, and certain persons in the British service, to whom they gave information of the state of affairs amongst us, and from whom they received council and money for the better execution of their designs. Mr. Smith questioned him concerning the names of the persons who met at his master's house, and learned from him, that Mr. Forbes, Garrison, Cockshall, Burke, and Sebring, were the most active persons. The provincial congress on receiving this information from Mr. Smith, being determined to proceed with the utmost caution, ordered a party of men the next night to seize Mr. Gilbert Forbes, Gunsmith, and to convey him to safe custody; accordingly a party under the command of Capt. Labatteau proceeded about two in the morning to the house of Mr. Forbes, in the Broad-way; some of them having forced their way into the yard to prevent him making his

his escape, the Captain knocked at the front door, and demanded admittance, on its being opened, and finding the culprit was in an upper room in bed, rushed up stairs, broke open the door, and seized him before he could meditate an escape. They then required his keys, which, after some hesitation, he delivered upon being told that what they did was by the order of the provincial congress; they then conveyed him to an apartment in the New Goal, where he was properly secured. His papers were delivered to the provincial congress, which met the next day, among which were many letters and minutes which threw great light on the designs of the conspirators. The following among many other interesting ones were read at the board:

Copy of an Association entered into on the 13th of May, 1776.

1st. "We the underwritten being firmly attached to the glorious constitution of Great Britain, loyal subjects of our gracious Sovereign, King George the Third, and deeply sensible of the miseries brought on this devoted country, by the wicked artifices of an ambitious faction, do heartily and sincerely covenant and agree and pledge ourselves to each other by every thing that is honourable and sacred, that we will diligently and faithfully endeavour to restore the constitutional government of these colonies, and the happy connection that once subsisted between Great Britain and America.

2d.

2d. "That for this purpose we will zealously put in practice every honest method to inculcate loyalty in the minds of the people, to represent in their true colours the oppressions, insidious machinations, and cruel persecutions of an illegal and arbitrary congress, and that we will seize every opportunity to dissolve their councils, and frustrate their operations: That every member of this association binds himself in the most solemn and sacred manner to be faithful to the common cause, and to retain with the utmost caution the secrets committed to him.

3d. "That a committee be appointed for the transaction of business, and for carrying on a correspondence with the members of this society residing in any of the counties of this or neighboring provinces; that the members as many as can, will meet once a week for management of our common affairs.

4th. "That no person shall be admitted a member except he has passed an examination with the committee.

5th. "Should any member of this association fall under a suspicion, be taken prisoner, or even punished with death by our enemies, he shall look upon himself as bound in honour and conscience not to betray any of his associates, or to communicate any of the secrets of this society."

The following letters, with the superscriptions and signatures erased, were also read at the board.

"My

" My dear Friend,

" Our good cause thrives most wonderfully and providentially hereabouts. We have great hopes that the tyranny of our cruel task-masters will soon be ended. The little finger of these despots is heavier than the loins of the most arbitrary ministry. They shew their superiority only by their cruelty. The people groan under their oppressions, and comparing their present misery with their former happiness and tranquility, long to throw off the yoke. They plunder our barns, enter our houses, and forcibly take from us what we have sweated and toiled for; giving us in return nothing but their paltry paper. If we are to be slaves, let us be so to the lion, and not to the lousy dirty vermin of New England. We have had many meetings lately, and so many are desirous of associating with us, that we are afraid lest the secret might transpire by being communicated to too great a number; we have already two hundred associators in this county who have bound themselves by the most solemn asseverations to fidelity; we are much at a loss to know how to act about the oath of allegiance to the congress, which 'tis said they intend soon to impose on us. Heaven send us a speedy deliverance. We are well supplied with arms, which every man keeps hid, to use when occasion permits, but we are in great want of powder. The drubbing which they had in Canada works wonderfully, and if General Howe should give them one sound thrashing, numbers will be ready to fly to his protection; depend upon our constancy and fidelity

fidelity. Let us know all your motions that we may co-operate together. This goes by Edward Staggs, a fast friend to our interest. God blefs the King. Amen."

*Distrefs County,
May 15, 1776."*

Numb. II.

"S I R,

"We hope that according to your promise you will have the rifle guns ready by Saturday night, as we shall send a boat down under the direction of James Clavering, to lie off the old battery, near George Harrison's brewhouse; about ten o'clock in the morning he will send his negroe man Cuff, to acquaint you with his coming, so that if you can get any of our associates who are under arms to conceal them in some house nigh, we may be able to carry them off. By all means take care and use great precautions, for if we should be blown up, we should meet no mercy. Lt. Steele would be the most proper person to be employed on this service. My love to your wife and children, and to all true hearts under the rose.

Your's, ever

X

Numb. III.

"S I R,

"Embracing this good opportunity, I give you much joy of the death of that arch rebel and firebrand
Montgomery,

Montgomery, and hope e'er long it will be the fate of many more. I can't help laughing to see the long faces of many of my neighbours on this occasion; had I my wish their necks should be as long as their faces: by all accounts it has kicked up a devil of an uproar at Carpenters hall, and I suppose we shall very soon have another *fast* — fast of the flesh I mean, for their pious pastors take care to give the saints on such occasions a spiritual *feast* of treason and rebellion. My neighbor Voorhuys says there must have been treachery in the case, and thinks that Donald Campbell is a very good hand at a retreat. Things go very bravely on with us. The old farmers shake their heads, and say, this is not the thing, we long to see some more English guineas among us. Jabez Fisher and I have taken occasion to go much among them, and tell them the designs of the congress are all imposition, that they never suffered any thing from England, and that we shall never be happy till the old times are restored, that old John Bull is roused at last, and that what they thought fear or weakness was nothing but mercy and gentleness. We now meet frequently at each others houses, drink the King on our marrow-bones, and confusion to the congress; we have fifty names now down on our association paper, all staunch hearty fellows, only waiting an opportunity to shew our loyalty. I had an affray lately with one of their officers, a Capt. Lefferts, who was quartered in our neighbourhood. He sent a soldier the other day to purchase some of my poultry, I told him I could not spare any;

on which the villain had the impudence to tell me he came by the order of his captain, and would have them. My choler got the better of my prudence, and I pushed him out of my house, and shut the door upon him. The captain waited on me the next day, and asked me how I dared to treat one of the congress's soldiers and his servant in so audacious a manner. I told him the property was mine, and would use it as I pleased; he made no answer, but went away in a passion, and soon returned with a party of his myrmidons, who insulted me in the grossest manner, took away my poultry, and broke my windows; I have since applied to the committee for redress, but could not obtain a hearing, as I suppose they partook of the plunder. Such is our glorious liberty, or rather the liberty, which these miscreants take with us. I hope, however, we shall soon have satisfaction of these rascals. Honest Savage is here, and sends his compliments to you. Kiss Betsey for me; my spouse desires to be remembered to you both.

I am,
Your friend and servant,

Poughkeepsy, 1776.

The provincial congress having taken the above letters under consideration, and finding from other circumstances, that a most wicked and dangerous conspiracy

spiracy was formed against the liberties of America, judged proper to appoint a committee of enquiry, with powers to examine into the nature of it, and to sit in judgment in bringing to condign punishment such person or persons as they should find concerned in it. The following persons were appointed a committee for the purpose.

P R E S I D E N T .

Peter R. Livingston.

J. M. Scott,	Peter Curtenius,
Marinus Willett,	John Abeel,
Alex. M'Dougal,	Corn. Byvank,
John Berrian,	John Stoutenburgh,
Herc. Mulligen,	James Weffels,
Gersthom Mott,	John Crimshire.

Gilbert Smith, Secretary.

June 23. The committee met at the house of Mr. Jasper Drake, and proceeded upon business; Mr. Abraham Livingston attending, informed the committee, that the night before he waited upon Mr. Gilbert Forbes, at his apartment in the New Goal, and laying before him in the strongest colours the danger of his situation, and that there was no other way for him to obtain mercy but by making a full confession. The prisoner signified to him, that if security should be given him for his own personal safety, he would disclose matters of great importance :
the

the committee taking into serious consideration this information, ordered the prisoner to be brought before them under a proper guard.

Mr. Forbes being brought into their presence, discovered great signs of consternation and guilt, and with a faltering voice begged the committee would allow him some time to compose his mind, and permit him to have council to assist him in his defence, as he was entirely unprepared to answer any questions, and might prejudice himself by his ignorance of the forms usually practised in such cases.

President. Sir, we shall shew you all the candour and justice you can expect. The questions we shall put to you are only concerning matters of fact, and if you wish for time only to be better able to prevaricate and evade, I inform you that your request cannot be granted. Sir, the crime you are charged with is of a most heinous nature, and you are little entitled even to the formality of a trial, nevertheless, Mr. Forbes, as we have been informed, you are disposed to shew the sincerity of your repentance by making an ample discovery, and wiping off your guilt against your country, by enabling us to detect and avert the mischiefs you intended against it, such conduct may recommend you to the clemency and mercy of this court.

Prisoner. I beg, gentlemen, you will not be harsh and hasty with me. I am sure I never meant any harm against my country, but minded the business of my shop; I have been treated very cruelly, torn out of my bed at the dead of night, my sick wife and family

family alarmed, my papers seized, and my house ransacked, without my knowing why or wherefore, and thrown into a prison, denied the council or assistance of any friend or acquaintance.

Mr. Mulligen. Sir, Sir! I am surprised you have the boldness to speak in this manner before the committee, after what you have been guilty of. We do not sit here to hear you criminate, neither will such language avail you. Sir, we have authentic evidence of your having been concerned in a hellish conspiracy, and we were informed that you were desirous of obtaining mercy, by making an honest and full confession; as a friend, I advise you to conceal nothing, as you hope for pardon.

Mr. Curtenius. Then you know nothing, sir, of an association? you never have received any letters from the country containing treasonable matters? you never met I suppose at the Serjeant's Arms?

Prisoner. Indeed, gentlemen, I am entirely innocent, I beg you will allow me time to prepare for my defence.

Mr. M'Dougal. Gentlemen, I would recommend that if the prisoner continues obstinate, he should be remanded to prison; we have no time for delay; delays are dangerous, gentlemen, the villainous designs of our enemies must be averted by some speedy examples, no punishment can be too severe for men who have conspired the ruin of us all.

President. I would advise you, Mr. Forbes, seriously to weigh your critical situation, and to plead guilty,
for

for we are in no want of proof sufficient to justify us in condemning you to the most ignominious punishment; if your confession is candid and clear, you may in some degree repair the mischiefs you have occasioned, and in the name of this committee I promise you a full and free pardon, if you will disclose the whole without reserve.

Prisoner. How, Sir, would you have me to confess, when I know nothing that I am guilty of against my country. I have asked you for time and to be tried by a jury of my neighbours, which you refuse me.

Mr. Livingston. You are not, I would have you to know, to dictate to the court, we are here to try and judge you by the authority of the congress. You will not presume to dispute, I hope, its authority. Serjeant call in Mr. Collier.

Collier being sworn, he deposed what he told to Mr. Smith, of his having met at the tavern with Mr. Child, Roberts, Abrams, &c. &c. that Mr. Forbes was generally there, and a very active member. The following letter, among others, which were taken at Mr. Forbe's house, was read.

"Gentlemen,

"I have been thinking about our squeam, and I do think that we cannot take too much care, that the Wigs do not find us out, what we are about, as they have two many on there side of the questione, and may take us up. I propose then for us to meet on Saturday alone by ourselves in the wood near Kingbridge on the left hande side of the rode from Yorke,
and

and that eache man shud bring a pistal or cutlash with him in order to defende hourself, if needfulle. My boye is to bringe me your answer, and he knowes nothinge whiche I have wrote,

I am,
Gentlemen,
your hum. sarvant
in Affictione."

President. Do you know these letters ?

Prisoner. They were left with me by a friend among some other papers ; they were not directed to me, and are none of my concern.

President. Do you know the writers of them ?

Prisoner. They were not sent to me — I am entirely unprepared — I cannot give answers to such questions.

(The court having taken into view the obstinacy of the prisoner, remanded him into close confinement.) Jacobus Lawrence was then brought into court, by Mr. Livingston, who said he could give some information on the business of the committee.

Jacobus Lawrence sworn.

Court. You keep a tavern at Hempstead, on Long Island ?

Lawrence. Yes, Sir.

Court. Pray, Mr. Lawrence, do you know the names of the persons, I think they were six in number, that dined at your house on Sunday the 9th of June last, and do you remember to have heard any of their conversation upon public matters ?

Lawrence.

Lawrence. There was only five, their names I do not know, but they talked to me about lying at my house the ensuing plovering season; one of them asked me if I was Whig or Tory? I told him I was for peace: upon which a second said, there never would be peace whilst such men as composed the congress had the command. Upon this I was alarmed, and one of them asked me what was the matter? I said, for God's sake, gentlemen, take care what you say, the honourable congress is not to be spoken of in this manner.

Court. Could you not discover, Mr. Lawrence, where the persons lived who spoke so disrespectfully of the congress.

Lawrence. As I am upon my sacred oath, I believe they live all of them at New York, but they were entire strangers to me.

Court. Proceed, Mr. Lawrence, and inform the court what more passed.

Lawrence. The gentleman at the end of the table, whom I took to be a Scotchman, seemed to cough, and then took a pinch of snuff; upon this not a word more was spoke till I went out of the room.

Court. Do you know, or did you hear any thing more that passed?

Lawrence. The shrug of the man in the corner raised my suspicions, I seemed to be very busy about my business, but set my housekeeper, Jemima, to listen.

Court. Can you depend upon the word of Jemima?

Lawrence.

Lawrence. Ever since the death of my poor wife, now eleven years, we have lived upon the most intimate footing, and I have no reason to doubt her in a single thing.

Court. Well, Mr. Lawrence, what did Jemima hear?

Lawrence. She said that one of the men said, that fellow seems to love money, suppose we feel his pulse on this conspiracy: as soon as the word conspiracy was mentioned she was alarmed, and called me in, thinking the negroes were going to rise.

Court. Where do you mean,—into the room where the five persons were?

Lawrence. No — into the house — I was at the door serving two customers from North Side, with a small dram of rum a-piece. She took me aside and told me there was a plot, or something like it, going forward, and said, she wished those people were out of the house.—I said, I would try them again, and so made an excuse to go into the room for some gingerbread, which is kept in a closet close by; upon this one of the men said to me, Landlord, we shall never have peace in America till somebody serves General Washington as he meant to serve the plover next season.

Court. Did the others hear him say this?

Lawrence. Yes; and seemed to wait for my answer, I told them by way of drawing out of them all I could, (by the holiness of my oath I meant nothing more) I told them, I wished things were as they used to be, but I did not see how any body dared to shoot so great a man as the General; upon this the man with a
E snuffy

snuffy face, jumped up and said there was one who could do that easy enough; and then asked me if a good sum of the old New-York currency would not tempt me to be accessory *if I was sure no harm would happen to me?* I asked, where the New York currency was to come from; I was told Mr. Lott had reserved 7000l. which was to be distributed among those who would assist. I said, assist, to do what? they said, to murder General Washington and all the Livingstons. Upon this I said, that his Excellency was like a saint, and the Livingstons, apostles, who opened the eyes of the people in America, and that I should be afraid of being hanged if I was knowingly to hurt a hair of their heads; upon this the Scotchman shrugged up his shoulders, and all were silent. I was desired to step out, but they soon after called me in again, and one of them gave me ten dollars to swear secrecy, which I was then tempted to do, but am now sorry for it.

This was the substance of the evidence given in by Mr. Lawrence.

Mr. MacKesson then acquainted the committee, that Joseph Finch waited at the door, who was desirous of giving the court very important information. The committee ordered him in accordingly. He said if the congress would secure him from injury or punishment, he would disclose matters of much consequence.

The committee pledged their honour that he should be safe, and promised withal a considerable reward, if he was open and clear in his discovery. Finch said, he was a joiner by profession, and was working at the house

house of Gerardus Beekman, commonly called Dr. Beekman, who being in a good humour, he was called up stairs, and asked to drink some wine; the doctor called him a damned honest fellow, chucked him under the chin, and asked if he loved his Majesty; he said he would shed the last drop of his blood for him. The doctor treated him with a bottle of what he called his eight-year-old, and then having found him hearty in the cause, carried him to the Serjeant's Arms.

President. What time did this happen?

Finch. About the 20th of May last.

President. Do you remember any persons that were present?

Finch. Yes. There was Mr. Henry Foster, James Matthison, Nicholas Antony, Thomas Degrushe, Henry Carman, and many others, whom, if I had time, I could recollect.

President. What was the subject of conversation?

Finch. They talked much that night against the cruelty of the congress, and the cowardice and insults of the New-England men, and of their hopes the former government would be soon restored.

President. Go on, sir, and tell us what you deem most material.

I was sent some time after with letters to different parts of the country, encouraging them to union, and conveying money for purchasing arms and ammunition.

President. To what places were you sent?

Finch. To New Rochel, Poughkeepsey, West Chester, Albany, and many other places.

Court.

Court. To what persons were the letters directed ?

Finch. I cannot at present mention them particularly, but I have carried some to Thomas Fisher, John Amos, James Savage, Samuel Jenks, and many others, with whom I had many meetings, and much serious conversation, upon public affairs, and brought their answers back.

The committee then thought proper to give Mr. Finch time to recollect himself, and appointed three of their body to meet him the next morning, in order to take his information more fully and deliberately.

James Ming was then called in, and being sworn, deposed.

Ming. I am by trade a shoemaker, and live in Carman-street, being sent for one day to Jacob Duryee, after paying me for some work I had done for the family, Mr. Duryee asked me what I thought of the times. I told him, bad enough. He said he wished there never had been a congress in the world ; I told him it might be so. He then talked much to me of the high price of things, and asked me if I did not wish to see the good old times again ? I said, yes ; on which he gave me a glass of wine, and drank to the King and Parliament, which I did too. He then told me that a number of friends to England, would be glad to see me or any other honest man, on whom they could depend. I told him I would never act un honourably. He desired me to be hush, and he would propose

propose me to be a member; that it should cost me nothing. I then left him, and went home.

Mr. Curtenius. Did he say nothing to you concerning giving aid to General Howe, or information? Did't you imagine that was what he meant, when he spoke of the friends to England?

Ming. No, Sir, not at that time, but afterwards; if you please, I'll tell the whole affair as it happened. The next week Mr. Duryee and Mr. Anthony came to me, and after seeing every one out of the shop, told me I was admitted a member of their society. I went with them to the Serjeant's Arms, and was carried into a room joining to the room where the society met.

Mr. Byvanck. Was no oath tendered to you?

Ming. None but an association paper or bond.

Mr. M'Dougal. Was it this? (Clerk hands him the association found among Mr. Forbes' papers.)

Ming. Yes, to the best of my knowledge and remembrance, the very same.

Court. What persons were at the meeting? Do you remember the tenor of the conversation?

Ming. It was something very violent against the congress, and about restoring the old government.

Court. Do you recollect any thing that was said about the distributing arms, giving information of the proceedings in our camp, or of betraying General Washington?

Ming. I can't say anything to that. I heard no particulars.

William

William Cooper, foldier, sworn.

Court. Inform us what conversation you heard at the Serjeant's Arms?

Cooper. Being there the 21st of May, I heard John Clayford inform the company, that Mary Gibbons was thoroughly in their interest, and that the whole would be safe. I learnt from enquiry that Mary Gibbons was a girl from New Jersey, of whom General Washington was very fond, that he maintained her genteelly at a house near Mr. Skinner's,—at the North River; that he came there very often late at night in disguise; he learnt also that this woman was very intimate with Clayford, and made him presents, and told him of what General Washington said.

Court. Did you hear Mr. Clayford say any thing himself that night?

Cooper. Yes; that he was the day before with Judith, so he called her, and that she told him, Washington had often said he wished his hands were clear of the dirty New-Englanders, and words to that effect.

Court. Did you hear no mention made of any scheme to betray, or seize him?

Cooper. Mr. Clayford said he could easily be seized and put on board a boat, and carried off, as his female friend had promised she would assist: but all present thought it would be hazardous.

William Savage, sworn.

Court. Was you at the Serjeant's Arms on the 21st of May? Did you hear any thing of this nature?

Savage.

Savage. I did, and nearly as the last evidence has declared; the society in general refused to be concerned in it, and thought it a mad scheme.

Mr. Abeel. Pray, Mr. Savage, have not you heard nothing of an information that was to be given to Governor Tryon?

Savage. Yes; papers and letters were at different times shewn to the society, which were taken out of General Washington's pockets by Mrs. Gibbons, and given (as she pretended some occasion of going out) to Mr. Clayford, who always copied them, and they were put into his pockets again.

Court. What was done with these papers?

Savage. They were read at the table, copied, and sent off.

Court. Where were they sent? and by what conveyance?

Savage. They were given to Mr. Matthews, who sent them on board the *Duchess of Gordon*.

Court. Had they no other accounts but those communicated by Mrs. Gibbons.

Savage. Yes; many other papers and letters were read, and I was told they had information by an officer, a gentleman of high rank and distinction, near General Washington, and in his confidence.

Court. Could you find out who he was?

Answer. No.

Court. By whom was his intelligence communicated?

Savage. By Mr. Vanderbergh.

Court.

Court. You cannot give any reason to suspect what officer it was?

Savage. No; I could not learn who it was; but was often told that he was a gentleman in whom General Washington placed great confidence, and relied much upon.

The Court ordered him to withdraw, and the room to be cleared.

Mr. Livingston. In my opinion, gentlemen, we had better defer examining any more witnesses till we can consult General Washington, and some other officers, upon what has appeared.

Mr. Scott. I think we have no time for delay, we may run through an examination of the witnesses, as this court is an independent one, for the good of the public, and no time should be lost in coming at the bottom of this horrid affair.

Court. It would be but justice to the General, as he is some way affected by the last witnesses to apprise him of it, and consult with him, in the mean time the other suspected persons should be seized as speedily as possible.

The court accordingly adjourned till the 26th.

During this interval the committee had many conferences on the subject with General Washington, and many other officers. They had also private examinations of the prisoners. Orders were issued to seize the persons of John Wiley, Norman Ptolomy, Totten and Crossfield; and information being given that a number of the conspirators were concealed at and near
Jamaica,

Jamaica, Long Island, a party of horse were ordered to take them, under the command of Capt. Willett. When they reached Jamaica, they found the conspirators, to the number of eighteen, had retired to a wood on the top of a hill, determined to defend themselves. Captain Willett got a small reinforcement, and then surrounded the eminence where they were posted; a brisk fire ensued as our people approached, and they obstinately continued to resist, till having lost one man, and others being dangerously wounded and disabled, they thought proper to surrender, and were brought prisoners to New York.

June 29. The congress taking into serious consideration the number of disaffected persons in the province, and the danger of keeping them in the city, thought fit to send two hundred of them into Connecticut, to be kept in the different prisons till they could be brought conveniently to trial.

It having appeared from strong evidence and many circumstances, that David Matthews, Esq., Mayor of the City, was an aider and abetter of the conspiracy, and also the principal manager of an illegal correspondence, he was seized by order of the provincial congress, and committed to the New Goal; on the 3d of July, the committee again met, and ordered James Clayford to be brought before them.

The prisoner being at the bar and sworn,

Mr. Mott told him, by order of this committee, I inform you that we have the clearest evidence of your
F having

having been treacherously concerned, in obtaining information and papers relating to public affairs, which you delivered to certain persons to be conveyed to the enemy; that in privacy and covenant with Mary Gibbons, you feloniously and secretly copied writings of the commander in chief, which were afterwards sent to be communicated to the foes of America; that you in your heart conceived and proposed a plan to seize on the person of General Washington, and carry him off as a prisoner to the mercenary army. What have you to answer to these charges, or to say why you should not be made an example of?

Prisoner. I labour under every disadvantage, having no one to speak for me, and not being tried by a jury, but I have confidence in the humanity of this court——Do not be severe with me, gentlemen, nor shed the blood of an innocent man. I beg that I may hear the evidences against me examined before my face.

Mr. Mulligen. You do not deserve such a favor, we are well satisfied of your guilt, and that you ought long ago to have suffered your deserts.

Mr. Abeel. I think it will not take much time to re-examine the witnesses, not that I have any doubt of his guilt, but to give him no cause of complaint at our proceedings.

The committee agreed to it, and James Myer, Thomas Lefferts, and Peter Goff were sworn. They deposed what has been before related, that the prisoner often attended the meeting of the conspirators, at the Serjeant's

Serjeant's Arms, and that he used frequently to boast of his amours with Mrs. Gibbons; that he proposed with this woman's assistance to seize General Washington's person, and carry him off; that he frequently brought papers and letters of the General's to the society, which were copied and sent away.

Prisoner. Remember, Mr. Goff, you are upon oath, and that my life depends on it. As to my connection with Mrs. Gibbons I do not deny it, but never was concerned in any conspiracy. You must know, Mr. Goff, that I only said at the society, that such a thing as seizing General Washington might be done, but I never agreed to or thought of doing it, nor did any person present propose or advise it.

Goff. Yes; you often proposed it, and offered your service, and said Mrs. Gibbons would assist; and they applauded it, and drank your health.

Mr. Byvank. Have you nothing farther to say in your defence?

Prisoner. I have been treated cruelly, tried without judge or jury; it's nothing but a scheme to punish the innocent, and get clear of honest people.

Court. It is our opinion that you are guilty, and you are to be re-manded to the goal from whence you came, and we recommend to you to prepare for that death you deserve, and to which you are condemned by the authority of your country.

The prisoner was then very abusive, calling the court tyrants and murderers, but the guard hurried him away.

July

July 6. The congress received an account from Albany, that a body of Tories were detected in a design of firing the town, and blowing up the magazines, and that some of the principal persons in the country were concerned in it. It appears that they have a correspondence through the whole province and neighbouring colonies, and proposed to rise and make themselves masters of the fortresses, and disarm their enemies. Many of them were seized in Albany, but they would make no confession, and were thrown into goal. Scouts and parties were sent out in every county to watch and secure the insurgents, about ninety have been taken in Albany and its neighborhood. It appeared that a body of fifty Tories rose at Poughkeepsy, and attempted to disarm our friends, but after an obstinate engagement, in which five of them were killed, the rest were taken prisoners, and sent to Ridgefield. The congress taking these things into mature deliberation, resolved that some examples should be made, and accordingly ordered that James Clayford under condemnation, should be speedily executed.

July 7. The committee met, and ordered David Matthews, late Mayor of the city to be brought before them.

Mr. Matthews being brought in, cast a look of contempt on the court, and affected to treat it with derision.

President. We sit here by the authority of the people to enquire into a most horrid conspiracy, with powers

powers to acquit or punish, as evidence shall appear. You are charged, Sir, with being a principal adviser and abettor of schemes against your country; we have evidence of your having attended an unlawful meeting, associated for the purpose of overturning the present constitution, and introducing the old tyranny. It appears that you have kept up a correspondence with men adjudged enemies to this country, and have distributed money in order to procure intelligence for them. If you have anything to say, we are ready to hear it.

Prisoner. This is a new mode of trial to hurry a man to prison without letting him know his crime, to seize his papers and put armed men into his house, and then examine him in a private manner, without a jury of his peers, or giving him any information of his accusers, or allowing him to prepare for his defence. I scorn your mercy, and am ready to suffer for my King and country.—If I am to undergo the formality of a trial, let it be in the accustomed manner, by a jury.

Mr. Mac Dougal. Sir, we are ready to do you all the justice you can ask; but we expect not to be bullied and cavaliered in this manner. We have told you the authority by which we act, and if you chuse to examine any witnesses, or make a defence we are ready to hear it.

Prisoner. I am sensible all defence will be vain with men thirsting after blood. How many fathers have you already torn from their families and thrown into prison,

prison, only for difference of sentiment? If my principles are my crime, I never made a secret of being a friend to the King and constitution. You know yourselves that the conspiracy you talk of is a mere pretence to punish. The people you have thrown into prison were guilty of no other misdeeds than meeting in a social manner, and expressing their wishes for the restoration of the old constitution; they could not hurt you, when you are surrounded with so formidable an army in your service: they never were mad enough to attempt so wild a project. All they have done is to declare their opinions freely, during the openness of sociability and wine. I am sensible of no other proceedings of the society, and am privy to no scheme of so mad and improbable a nature. You must, therefore use your pleasure, for I cannot in my conscience admit of any authority in this body, to try and confine, or punish any subject of England.

Court. Call in the evidences; if Mr. Matthews does chuse to ask them any questions, the court will hear them again and give him a full opportunity. James Myers, Stephen Prince, Thomas Lefferts, and Peter Goff, were sworn—They deposed that they had often seen the prisoner very active at the meeting of the conspirators; that the papers given to the society by Clayford, were put into his hands to be communicated to the enemy. That he often distributed money among the members, and encouraged them in their opposition to the congress: that they heard him on the 20th of May say, that the day was not far distant
when

when the bodies of the congress would be food for crows, that he often called the congress tyrants, and exhorted the members to union, patience, and fidelity.

Prisoner. I would not be understood to acknowledge the authority of this committee, but I must not even here, for I would no where else, suffer an act of charity to be perverted. I attended these meetings, I do not deny, out of affection to the constitution, but never had any notion so absurd as a conspiracy, to be managed and conducted at a tavern, in the hearing of waiters and promiscuous company: the money I distributed was only out of benevolence, and in pity for the distress of many of the members, who are honest men ruined by the times. I hope the congress will not call this treason. I hope they will not call it treason for us to meet and consult together for the support of our families, this is all the treason we have meant, to assist each other, to contribute and comfort those friends to government who were in want——. (Here the court interrupted him.)

Court. If you have nothing more worthy of our attention to offer but such abuse and bare-faced fallacies, we must order you back to the place from whence you came. We are convinced of your guilt, and recommend you to make a confession and repent of your crimes. Your confession may entitle you not only to mercy, but if you discover sincerity in your reformation, a person of your station and influence, may expect every favour from your country.

Prisoner. I can receive no favour on any such dishonourable

dishonourable conditions. I avow my principles, and shall never swerve from them: but I would entreat you to have some pity (not on me) but on the numberless helpless families that you expose to ruin, by carrying away their innocent fathers, husbands, and brothers. I only ask you for myself to give me an interview with General Washington, from him I may expect the treatment of a gentleman.

Court. You have been used with justice and civility. If you have nothing further to say, let the guards convey him into safe custody, and give him every thing convenient.

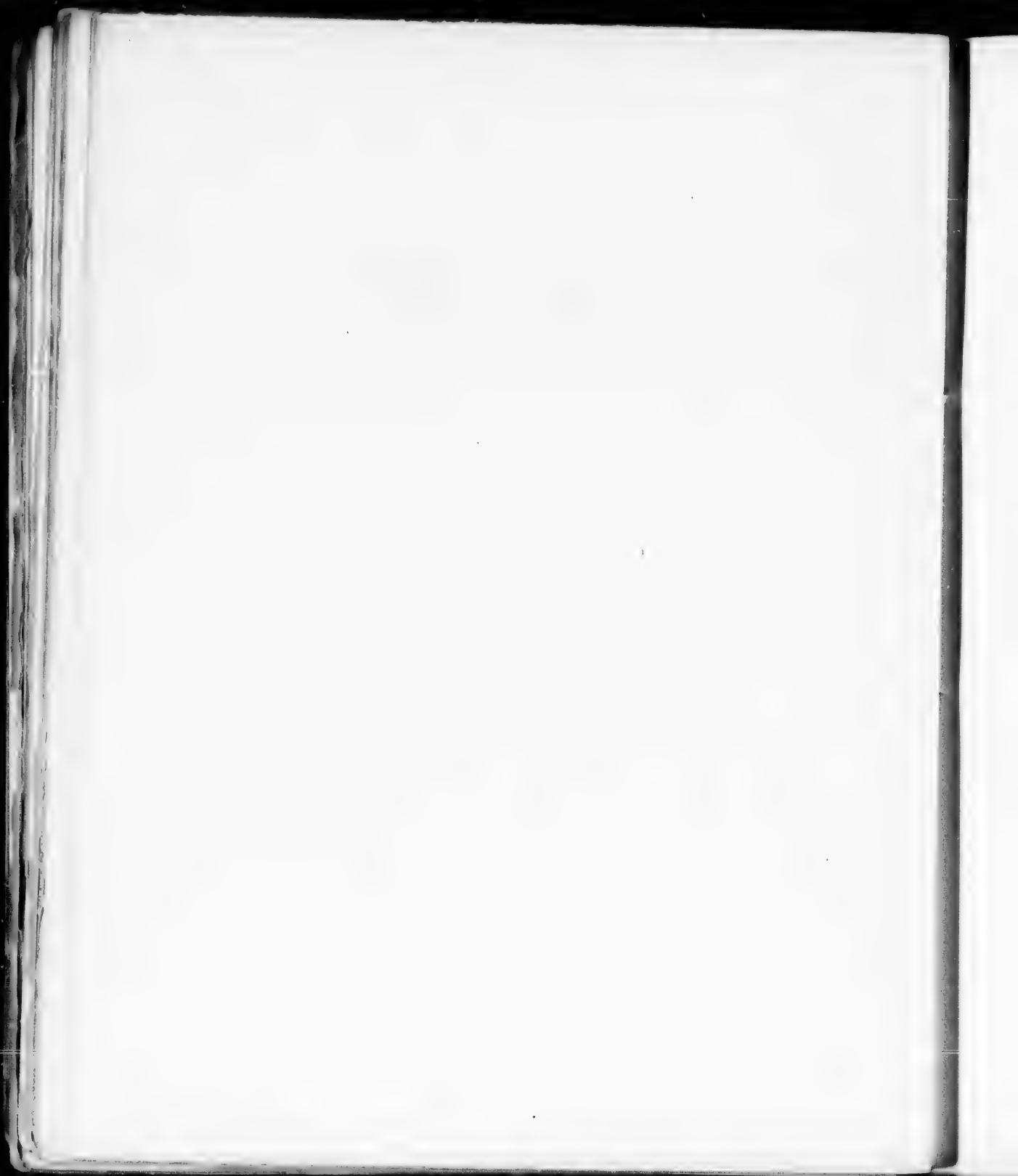
July 8th. The provincial congress having received the report of the committee, came to a resolution that David Matthews, late mayor of the city, having been fully convicted, and proved guilty of treasonable practices, tending to the subversion of our present happy government, deserves no longer to live, and is therefore sentenced to suffer death as a common malefactor, on the 25th day of August next.

August 1. The congress in full meeting resolved to postpone the execution of the sentence passed on David Matthews, Esq., *sine die*, and ordered him to be carried into Connecticut, there to be kept imprisoned 'till further orders.

The trial of the other prisoners was also deferred, and strict commands given to detect, and pursue such as were still concealed, that they might be preserved in safe custody till the times would render it convenient to bring them to trial.

F I N I S .

NOTES.





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Page 5. *Lousy, dirty, vermin of New England.*

“**T**HIS antipathy prevailing between the Southern and Eastern troops, had been the cause of a court-martial, of which I was a member, upon the conduct of Lieutenant Stewart of Smallwood's regiment, better known by his subsequent title of Major Jack Stewart. He had been arrested by General Silliman, on account of some alleged disrespect or disobedience to that officer. As the majority of the court were Southern men, it was not at all wonderful that Stewart was soon acquitted with honor. In so contemptible a light were the New-England men regarded, that it was scarcely held possible to conceive a case, which could be construed into a reprehensible disrespect of them. Thinking so highly as I now do of the gentlemen of this country, the recollection is painful, but the fact must not be dissimulated. Even the celebrated General Putnam, riding with a hanger belted across his brawny shoulders, over a waistcoat without sleeves (his summer costume), was deemed much fitter to head a band of sicklemen or ditchers, than musketeers. He might be brave, and had certainly an honest manliness about him; but it was thought, and perhaps with reason, that he was not what the time required. We had a regular army to oppose and this could only be done by discipline and regular soldieryship.”—*Graydon*, 178-9, ed. 1846.

“However,

"However, as they [Provincials] (especially the Connecticut soldiers, whom some pronounce the dirtiest people on the Continent) are not particularly attentive to cleanliness, the owners of the houses where they are quartered, if they ever get possession of them, must be years in clearing them, unless they get new floors, and new plaster the walls." "The particular jealousies and prejudices of the continental troops from the different states, led them frequently to throw out reflections tending to irritate each other and injure the common cause; so that the commander-in-chief interposed his influence to suppress it by general orders [Aug. 1, 1776]." "A brigadier writes concerning the animosity in the American army above noticed. 'It has already risen to such a height, that the Pennsylvania and New-England troops would as soon fight each other as the enemy. Officers of all ranks are indiscriminately treated in a most contemptible manner, and whole colonies traduced and vilified as cheats, knaves, cowards, poltroons, hypocrites, and every term of reproach, for no other reason, but because they are situated east of New-York. Every honor is paid to the merit of good men from the south; the merit, if such be possible, from the north is not acknowledged; but if too apparent to be blatted with falsehood, is carefully buried in oblivion. The cowardice or misbehaviour of the south is carefully covered over, the least misconduct in the gentlemen of the north is published with large comments and aggravations.'—Gordon, ii, 49, ed. N. Y. 1789, *et seq.*

Page 6. *Death of Montgomery.*

GENERAL MONTGOMERY was born in the north of Ireland in 1737, and was in the English army with Wolfe at Quebec. In 1772, he quitted the army, settled in America, and married a daughter of R. R. Livingston. On the opening of hostilities with the mother country, he espoused the cause of the colonists, and fell at Quebec December 31, 1775.

"Every mark of distinction was shown to the corpse of General Montgomery, who was interred in Quebec on the 2nd of January, 1776. In 1818, his body was removed, in accordance with an act of the New-York Legislature, and re-interred at St. Paul's churchyard in New York city."—*Diary Revolution*, i, 186.

"On the Death of General Montgomery.

BY BRYAN EDWARDS.

Montgomery falls! let no fond breast repine
That Hampden's glorious death, brave chief, was thine,
With his shall Freedom consecrate thy name—
Shall date her rising glories from thy fame—
Shall build her throne of empire on thy grave—
What nobler fate can patriot virtues crave!"
—*New Foundling Hospital for Wit*, ed. 1786, vol. vi, p. 7.

Page 7. *Carpenter's Hall.*

WHERE the congress was sitting in Philadelphia.

Page 7. *Donald Campbell,*

WAS Quartermaster General to the army of the north, and with Montgomery at Quebec; upon that general's death, he assumed command, and ordered a retreat, leaving behind him fifteen dead bodies of the detachment, among whom was that of Montgomery himself. His conduct was "anathematized in unmeasured terms," and all ascribed to him the failure of an expedition well planned, and which certainly, by one portion of the army, had been efficiently executed.—*Lamb's Memoirs*.

Page 20. *General Washington.*

TO the following stanza from "God Save the King!" by Stanbury, and to be found in the "*Loyal Verses of Stanbury and Odell*," Albany, 1860. "That admirable scholar, the editor, Mr. Winthrop Sargent, has appended a note so comprehensive, that it is given almost entire, herewith.

"Time

"Time was, in defence of his King and the Right,
 We applauded brave Washington foremost in fight:
 On the banks of Ohio he shouted lustily
 God save the King!
 Disappointed ambition his feet has misled;
 Corrupted his heart and perverted his head:
 Loyal no longer, no more he cries faithfully
 Glory and joy crown the King!"

"To cast a slur on the character of Washington would, to-day, be the act, if of an American, of a very silly or a very dishonest man. The latitude of party heats and personal rivalries permitted a less restrained conduct during his life-time. The Tories had surely some excuse for speaking bitterly of the only man by whom the American armies could have been led to victory and independence; for the vanquished party has in all times possessed at least the privilege of murmuring against its conqueror. But it must not be forgotten that long before and long after the war, as well as through its continuance, Washington was the object of the envy and calumny of others than the adherents of the English crown. The earliest public outrage offered to his character, appears in the official *Mémoire*, sent in 1756, by Louis XV. to the other sovereigns of Europe, in which, referring to Washington's Ohio expedition and the death of Jumonville, in 1754, he says: "*Il parait que l'imposture ne coûte rien à M. Washington; ici il s'en fait bonneur.*" It is amusing to find that Beaumarchais in 1779, replying to Gibbon's statement and justifying the aid given by France to America, heads his list of outrages exercised by England with this charge of assassination! He did not know that the falsehood hit the chief of the Americans, instead of the English court. Perhaps the original assertion by a foe of this bold slander "may be forgiven, though it cannot be applauded:" but its repetition was unfortunate on the lips of a friend. But the friends of America in the war were not all friends of Washington. His appearance in uniform in the congress of 1775, and the military experience he had acquired, undoubtedly familiarized the minds of some members with the idea of his nomination to be commander of the army: but the consent of many of the delegates to this appointment was only extorted by the necessities of the case, and was a source "of real regret in nearly one-half" of the gentlemen who made

made it. A number of the members were for Mr. Hancock; more were for Charles Lee; many for Washington; but the greatest number were for Artemas Ward. There is room, however, for the inference that there was no desire on the part of a majority to maintain at the continental expense a New-England army, with New England officers, to fight New England battles on New-England soil. There was a southern party against a northern; "and so many of our staunchest men," says Adams, "were in the plan, that we could carry nothing without conceding to it. Another embarrassment, which was never publicly known, and which was carefully concealed by those who knew it, the Massachusetts and other New-England delegates were divided. Mr. Hancock and Mr. Cushing hung back; Mr. Paine did not come forward, and even Mr. Samuel Adams was irresolute. Mr. Hancock, himself, had an ambition to be appointed commander-in-chief. * * * * When I came to describe Washington for the commander, I never marked a more striking and sudden change of countenance. Mortification and repentment were expressed as forcibly as his (Hancock's) face could exhibit them." Mr. C. F. Adams adds, that neither Hancock nor Ward was ever afterwards cordial towards Washington. Nor were the Virginia delegates unanimous in his favor: "particularly Mr. Pendleton was very clear and full against it." When the question was debated, there was a warm opposition to Washington; on public, however, and not on any personal grounds. Pendleton, Sherman, Cushing, and several others joined in it, fearing "discontents in the army and in New-England." This army, it must be recollected, consisted at that time almost entirely of the men raised by and in New England, and gathered before Bolton. * * * * *

"Long after the peace, John Jay said that in the congress of the Revolution there was always, from first to last, a most bitter party against Washington. What were the various motives of its members, it is impossible to say, since their names even cannot, with fullness and accuracy, be now ascertained. It is but fair, however, to give the benefit of a doubt, and to suppose that it was an apprehension of the effect which so much power and popularity might have on his ambition. The future was as yet unseen; and many men knew not what would be the consequences of the attainment of independence. "The subjugation of my country," said Edward Biddle, whose declining health had compelled him to forego the

the influence his talents would have given him as delegate in congress from Pennsylvania, "I deprecate as a most grievous calamity; and yet sicken at the idea of thirteen, unconnected, petty democracies; if we are to be independent, let us, in the name of *God*, at once have an empire, and place *Washington* at the head of it." But this idea was not pleasing to our people, whose experience of the benefit of monarchy was not great, and very few of whom had ever been distinguished by any royal favor; or, as an English versifier sang:

Poor lost America, high honours missing,
Knows nought of smile and nod, and sweet hand-kissing;
Knows nought of golden promises of kings;
In solitude the lovely rebel sighs!
But vainly drops the penitential tear —
Deaf as the adder to the woman's cries,
We suffer not her wail to wound our ear:
For food, we bid her hopeless children howl,
And with the savage of the desert howl.

But such "fears of the brave and follies of the wife" are incident to human nature; and the jealousy of Washington may have in some cases been connected with honest though blind judgments. It was a public blessing, thought Adams, that the glorious defence of the Delaware forts, in 1777, was "not immediately due to the commander-in-chief, nor to southern troops. If it had been, idolatry and adulation would have been unbounded; so excessive as to endanger our liberties, for what I know. Now, we can allow a certain citizen to be wise, virtuous and good without thinking him a deity or a favourite." It was in the same year that the writer took fire in congress at the sentiments entertained for the general by certain members: "I am distressed to find some of our members disposed to idolize an image which their own hands have molten. I speak of the superstitious veneration which is paid to General Washington. I honour him for his good qualities, but in this house, I feel myself his superior. In private life, I shall always acknowledge him to be mine." The *cabal* against Washington was never more violent than at this time, and probably debate ran high; and warm language was used on either side: and his enemies, if we may rely on the following anecdote, were more powerful in the council chamber than in the camp. In a *Life of*
Lord

Lord Stirling, the father-in-law of William Duer, written by Mr Duer's son (and the relationship is of some importance to the authenticity of the anecdote), occurs this singular passage: "It is related by Mr. Dunlap in his history of New York, upon the authority, it is presumed, of the late General Morgan Lewis, that a day had been appointed by the *Cabal* in Congress for one of them to move for a Committee to proceed to the camp at Valley Forge, to arrest General Washington; and that the motion would have succeeded had they not unexpectedly lost the majority which they possessed when the measure was determined on. At that time, there were but two delegates in attendance from New-York, Francis Lewis, the father of the late General Morgan Lewis, and William Duer, the son-in-law of Lord Stirling—barely sufficient to entitle the state to a vote, if both were present. But Mr. Duer was confined to his bed by a severe and dangerous illness. His colleague, Mr. Lewis, had sent an express for Mr. Gouverneur Morris, one of the absent members, who however, had not arrived on the morning of the day on which the motion was to have been made. Finding this to be the case, Mr. D. inquired of his physician, Dr. John Jones, whether it was possible for him to be carried to the Court-House where Congress sat. The doctor told him it was possible, but it would be at the risk of his life. 'Do you mean,' said Mr. D., 'that I should expire before reaching the place?' 'No,' replied the doctor, 'but I would not answer for your leaving it alive.' 'Very well, sir,' said Mr. D., 'you have done your duty, and I will do mine. Prepare a litter for me; if you will not, somebody else will—but I prefer your aid.' The litter was prepared, and the sick man placed in it, when the arrival of Mr. Morris rendered the further use of it unnecessary, and baffled the intrigue that had induced its preparation." The date of this anecdote was such as to render it extremely improbable that the American army, if it submitted to Washington's deposeal, would have struck another blow under another leader for Congress. "I remember well," says a public writer in 1780, "that such was the situation of the army, while they lay at Valley Forge in the winter of the year 1778, destitute of cloathing, many times in want of provisions, and greatly discouraged, that a member of Congress, who had been on a committee to the camp to new model the troops, with the advice of General Washington, declared

declared to me, that 'such had been the state of things, that nothing but the great virtues of that man had kept the army together.'

"Much concerning this *Cabal*, and its workings in the Congress of 1778, exists in Gordon: whence it would seem that delegates from Massachusetts and Virginia were deep in the affair. Samuel Adams, he says, was concerned in it, and adds: "The army was so confident of it, and so enraged, that persons were stationed to watch him, as he approached the camp, on his return home. But he is commonly possessed of good intelligence, and was careful to keep at a safe distance. Had he fallen into the hands of the officers, when in that paroxysm of resentment, they would probably have handled him so as to have endangered his life, and tarnished their own honour."

There is a curious article in the *Pennsylvania Evening Post* July 24th, 1779, which may refer to this anti-Washington Party in Congress: "a junto who have endeavored to subject all things to themselves, all power, civil, military and marine: Who have endeavored to remove every person that would not mingle in their factious views; and to place none in office but their friends, relatives and dependents; against whose malevolence the unfulfilled fame of the great American patriot was but a slender barrier; whose victim was a W * * * * * — and whose idol was a L * *." The same journal (July 9th, 1779) mentions the existence in Congress of a sort of Club of certain New-England, New-Jersey, and Pennsylvania delegates, with two or three from the Southward; the foundation of which had been laid in the first Congress, when there was cause to fear that New-York and one or two other middle colonies were averse to extreme measures. Among the Washington party in Congress, I should put such names as those of Robert Lewis, and Gouverneur Morris; Jay; Paca; Burke; Drayton; Duane; Duer; Francis Lewis. The question is not so clear in regard to Samuel Adams; Mifflin; Witherspoon; Rush; Jefferson; the Lees, &c.; though any conclusion to be arrived at must in some measure be conjectural. In 1789, Samuel Adams in a manner denied to a friend the truth of Dr. Gordon's statement of his having been concerned in a plot to remove Washington. And in 1796, when John Adams was a successful candidate for the Presidency of the United States, he makes an observation that would imply a well-established community

community of action between Samuel Adams and Thomas McKean: "The feelings of friendship excite a curiosity to know how McKean will vote. By that I shall guess how Governor Adams would have voted!" On April 4th, 1778, Patrick Henry wrote to Richard Henry Lee that he (Lee) was traduced in Virginia by persons who alleged that he was engaged in a scheme to discard Washington: and in 1780, Dr. William Shippen, jun., wrote thus to him of General Greene: "He is a little suspicious that you are not perfectly satisfied with his conduct, because you were said to be inimical to our commander, and, of consequence, to him, who was supposed to be one of his flatterers—this false idea I have reprobated to General Greene, and assured him he would find you his friend and useful confidant." And it is said, also, that the occasion of Lee's losing his popularity at home, and his seat in Congress in 1777, was chiefly because he had compelled his tenants to pay their rents. His biographer and namesake, in several places, flouts the charge made by Judge Johnson, in the *Life of Greene*, that Richard Henry Lee was Washington's enemy. But if Samuel Adams was, so was, probably, Lee. It is at all events a gratifying thing to remark that no one, in later days, had the moral courage to confess that he was concerned in the business; indeed its very name of *Conway's Cabal* shows that its members were afraid or ashamed to avow their complicity; for Conway was but a tool of the hour, whom it was easy enough for a fellow-foldier to silence, and whose name was affixed to a scheme (that he doubtless approved of, but which was concocted by longer heads than his own) merely to avert the attention of the world from its real authors. In the army, indeed, the love and veneration for Washington was boundless, and almost universal; and, here, truly, lay the stumbling-block of his enemies. It was only in the immediate circle of some of the foreign-born officers, as Conway, Lee, and Gates, that an opposite opinion was heard. Lee's sentiments in regard to "Washington and his puppies" are sufficiently well known. "*Entre nous*," he says to Gates in December, 1776, "a certain great man is damnably deficient." "As to his talents for the command of an army," said Gates to Graydon, 'with a French shrug,' "they were miserable indeed." The testimony of the civilian, who was forced to remove from a comfortable house in one place to a comfortable house in another,

another, because Washington, with vastly inferior forces could not drive Howe out of Philadelphia, would be amusing but for the circumstance that, himself in a position to obtain a comfortable dinner — “a good roast turkey, plain pudding, and minced pies,” — he could so grievously have misconceived the condition of the Army in his vicinity. As Mr. William B. Reed justly observes: “The sufferings of the Americans during their winter cantonment at the Valley Forge have been often described. They have never been exaggerated.” Yet, in the end of December, 1777, after noticing Howe's movements, a Pennsylvania Whig remarks: “All this is done in the view of our Generals and our Army, who are careless of us, but carefully consulting where they shall go to spend the winter in jollity, gaming, and carousing. O tell not this in France or Spain! Fubish it not in the streets of London, Liverpool or Bristol, lest the uncircumcised there should rejoice, and shouting for joy, say: “America is ours, for the rebels are dismayed and afraid to fight us any longer! O Americans, where is now your virtue? O Washington, where is your courage?” In this note, no citation is made of Tory or British accusations against Washington. One of these was, however, against his chastity; and some of the charges went so far as to identify the woman and to trace the offspring. This is only recurred to here, because of a like insinuation being made apparently by Charles Lee, to General Reed, in 1778; but with great propriety the latter repelled as unworthy of credence the slanders that charged the commander-in-chief with “great cruelty to his slaves in Virginia, and immorality of life, though they acknowledge it is so very secret that it is difficult to detect it.”

In the close of 1779, General Sullivan warned Washington that the *Cabal* of 1777 against him still existed, and waited only for sufficient strength to attack him openly. He therefore advises him to keep on his guard. “Appearances may deceive even an Angel. Could you have believed, four years ago, that those adulators, those persons so tenderly and so friendly used, as were Gates, Mifflin, Reed and Tudor, would become your secret and bitter, though unprovoked enemies. If we view them now, we cannot help lamenting the want of sincerity in mankind.”

But everything said or done during the War, by Whig or Tory, falls far short of the dreadful charges brought against Washington by his political opponents

opponents and fellow-citizens in 1795, 1796, and 1797. Compared with the language of *Valerius*, *Pittachus*, *A Calm observer*, &c., former scurrility almost became praise. Every variety of evil, from avarice and fraud to tyranny and murder, was imputed to his hands, with a power of conception and expression that leaves us no room to wonder that he should have disdained to run the gauntlet of a third presidential term; that "he prudently retreated," to quote the remark of his successor. "Will not the world be led to conclude," says one, "that the mask of political hypocrisy has been alike worn by a Cæsar, a Cromwell, and a Washington!" "Had the meridian blaze of the president's popularity continued much longer," writes another, "the lamp of American liberty would have been extinguished forever. Happily for humanity, a change has taken place before it was too late, and the consecrated ermine of presidential chastity seems too foul for time itself to bleach." In the *Philadelphia Aurora*, a paper edited with detestable ability, will be found scores of pieces of a like nature. What can be more lamentable than such lines as these, published at the very epoch (March 4th, 1797) of Washington's withdrawal to private life? "Lord, lettest now thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation," was the pious ejaculation of a man who beheld a flood of happiness rushing in upon mankind. If ever there was a time that would license the reiteration of the exclamation, that time is now arrived: for the man who is the source of all the misfortunes of our country, is this day reduced to a level with his fellow-citizens, and is no longer possessed of a power to multiply evil upon the United States. If ever there was a period for rejoicing, this is the moment. Every heart in unison with the freedom and happiness of the people, ought to beat high with exultation that the name of Washington from this day ceases to give a currency to political iniquity, and to legalize corruption — a new æra is now opening upon us, an æra which promises much to the people; for public measures must now stand upon their own merits, and nefarious projects can no longer be supported by a name. When a retrospect is taken of the Washingtonian administration for eight years, it is a subject of the greatest astonishment, that a single individual should have cankered the principles of republicanism in an enlightened people, just emerged from the gulf of despotism, and should have carried his designs against public liberty so far,

far, as to have put in jeopardy its very existence; such, however, are the facts, and with these staring us in the face, this day ought to be a *jubilee* in the United States." In 1813, John Adams, writing to Jefferson, refers to "the terrorism excited by Genet, in 1793, when 10,000 people in the streets of Philadelphia, day after day, threatened to drag Washington out of his house, and effect a revolution in the government, or compel it to declare war in favor of the French revolution and against England. The coolest and the firmest minds, even among the Quakers in Philadelphia, have given their opinions to me, that nothing but the yellow fever, which removed Dr. Hutchinson and Jonathan Dickinson Sergeant from this world, could have saved the United States from a fatal revolution of government." But Adams's morbid jealousy of every one whose fame outshone or even (in his own opinion) rivalled his own, cankers very many of his judgments on Washington. While President himself, he complained that he was annoyed by "puppets, danced upon the wires of two jugglers behind the scenes; and these jugglers were Hamilton and Washington." In another and (as believed) unpublished manuscript, he says (Aug. 23rd, 1806): "The Federalists, as they are called by themselves and their enemies, have done themselves and their country incalculable injury by making Washington their political, religious, and even moral pope, and ascribing everything to him. Hancock, Samuel Adams, —, and several others have been much more essential characters to America than Washington. Another character, almost forgotten, of more importance than any of them all, was James Otis. It is to offend against eternal justice to give to one, as this people do, the merits of so many. It is an effectual extinguisher of all patriotism and all public virtue, and throws the nation entirely into the hands of intrigue. You lament the growth of Corruption very justly; but there is none more poisonous than the eternal puffing and trumpeting of Washington and Franklin, and the incessant abuse of the real Fathers of the country.

Despite all that has been said, too, of Mr. Jefferson's relations with Washington, it is difficult to hold that these really could have been of a perfectly sincere and friendly nature. It was believed in Washington's family that, shortly before his death, he opened his mind very plainly to Mr. Jefferson, in two or three letters. A gentleman, who was Washington's

ton's confidential clerk at the time, gives us some idea of their nature; for neither letters nor copies long continued in existence after their writer was dead. "The first was," he said, "rather a letter of inquiry; the second one was so severe, and excited his feelings so much, that the hair appeared to rise on his head as he recorded it, and he felt that it must produce a duel -- that the third was of a milder tone, but not a very gratifying one."

It is not, at this day, too much to say, that the common suffrage of all that is wise and good in human nature, authorizes us to question that man's soundness of judgment or rectitude of purpose who impugns the character of *George Washington*."

Page 23. *David Matthews.*

HE was appointed Mayor of the city of New York in February, 1776; "and by permission of the Provincial Congress was qualified by Governor Tryon on board the ship *Duchess of Gordon*, at anchor in the harbor. In July of the same year he was in jail at Litchfield, Connecticut, charged with "treasonable practices against the States of America;" but, at his own request, was removed to Hartford, where he had friends, and could see his wife. In 1782, he was Register of the Court of Admiralty. He had a house in New York and another in Flatbush, and kept up an establishment at both. His estate was confiscated. After the war he was president of the Council and Commander-in-Chief of the Island of Cape Breton."—*Sabine's Loyalists*, II, 51-2, ed. 1764.

"I well recollect breakfasting with my mother at the house of Mr. Matthews, the Mayor, and that his daughter, who entertained us, was so much to my taste, that for the moment I quite forgot the politics of her father, and might even have swerved, perhaps, from my loyalty to an allegiance a thousand times sworn elsewhere."—*Graydon's Memoirs*, p. 272, ed. 1846.

He

He appears to have been a man of sociable qualities; one of his own party speaks of him as "that merry heart, David Matthews."—V. Moore's *Diary of the Revolution*, 1, 290.

At page 237 of Moore's *Songs and Ballads of the American Revolution*, is a song from Rivington's *Gazette*, which it is suggested, may have been written by Matthews.



APPENDIX.





APPENDIX.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM A GENTLEMAN IN NEW YORK TO HIS
FRIEND IN HARTFORD, DATED JUNE 27, 1776.

YOU have no doubt heard of a most horrid conspiracy lately discovered in this place. I have had no opportunity to examine the evidences in support of the fact; but from the weight of the persons who have appeared to prosecute the inquiry, and the circumstances that have been mentioned, I have no doubt of the truth of the general charge. The substance of it, I take to be this, that Governour Tryon in this, and other similar emissaries in all the other Governments, have been for a long time using all the influence that the command of the Ministry and Treasury in *England* could give them, to bribe and cajole our principal people in all the Colonies to act in concert with their plans; that by degrees they have brought numbers fully to co-operate with them; and, after being led on too far to recede, stick at nothing, however villanous and horrible, to accomplish their designs; that the principal emissaries have, by pursuing the same methods that were successfully practiced upon themselves, drawn in those beneath them, so as to take in all degrees, from the prince to the scavenger; that a distribution of money and arms has been secretly made from the greater to the least branches; that there were schemes to distinguish who were in the plot, without speaking; that when all was ready for execution, the most vigorous efforts were to be made in different parts at once to land the troops and push their operations; at the same time all our most important posts were to be seized by the conspirators on shore; among ourselves all our important men were to be seized

seized or murdered, together with all that were friendly attached to the cause of *American* rights and liberty, and might be likely to obstruct their views or give them trouble. General *Washington* was among the first that were to be sacrificed, and the rest in succession, according to their importance. A number of the General's Guard have already been taken up, were bribed to murder him, and have for some time received double pay for that purpose, one of whom was yesterday condemned to be hanged.—Force's *American Archives*, 4th series, vol. vi, page 1101.

PROCEEDINGS IN NEW YORK IN RELATION TO DISAFFECTED PERSONS.

Die Sabbati, 12 ho., June 15, 1776.

In Committee for the hearing and trying disaffected persons and those of equivocal characters, met in the Assembly-Chamber: Present, *Philip Livingston*, *Joseph Hallett*, *John Jay*, *Thomas Tredwell*, *Gouverneur Morris*, *Lewis Graham*, and *Leonard Gansevoort*, Esquires, members.

The Members present unanimously chose *Philip Livingston*, Esq., Chairman, which he refused to accept.

The draft of a Summons was read, and approved of.

Ordered. That one hundred copies be printed.

List of suspected persons named in the Resolutions of the Provincial Congress, of *June 5*, 1776:

NEW YORK.

First List.

Wm. Newton,
Linus King,
John Baltres Dath,
Henry Law,
Theo. Hardenbrook,
Samuel Burling,
John Woods,
Benjamin Williams,
Christopher Benson,

William Bayard,
Frederick Rhinelander,
James Coggeshall,
John Milliner,
Benjamin James,
Theopilaët Bache,
Peter McLean,
Samuel Galsworthy,
Francis De La Roach.

Second List.

Oliver De Lancey,
C. Ward Apthorpe,
William Smith,
John Harris Cruger,
James Jauncey, Jun.,
William Axtell,
Goldbrow Banyar,
George Brewerton,
Charles Nicoll,
Gerard Walton,
Dr. Donald McLean,
Charles McEvers,

Benjamin Huggett,
William McAdam,
John Cruger,
Jacob Walton,
Robert Bayard,
Peter Graham,
Peter Van Schaack,
And. Elliott, Collector,
David Matthews, Mayor,
J. Watts, Jr., Recorder,
Judge Thomas Jones.

On board ships-of-war Dutchess of Gordon, &c.

William Tryon,
John Wetherhead,
Captain Hervey,

John T. Kempe,
George Berks.

KING'S COUNTY.

First List.

Theophilaët Bache,

Benjamin James.

Second List.

Augustus Van Cortlandt,

John Rapalye.

RICHMOND COUNTY.

First List.

Isaac Decker,
Abraham Harris,

Ephraim Taylor,
Minne Burger.

Second List.

Benjamin Seaman,

Christopher Billop.

QUEENS COUNTY.

First List.

R'd Hulet, Rockaway
Thomas Cornel, do,

Stephen Hulet,
Dr. Charles Arder,

J. Beagle, Rockaway,
John Kendal, at Daniel,
Thom's, Flushing,
John Moore, Sen., Newtown,
D. Beatty, Hempstead,

John Bodin,
— Chafe, Jamaica,
Jno. Hulet, Oyster Bay,
Isaac Denton, of Near Rocka-
way.

Second List.

Gabriel Ludlow,
Dr. Samuel Martin,
Thomas Jones,
Archibald Hamilton,
David Colden,
Richard Colden,
George D. Ludlow,
Whitehead Hicks,
Samuel Clowes,
George Folliot,
Samuel Doughty,
Daniel Kiffam,
Gilbert Van Wyck,

John Willet,
David Brooks,
Charles Hicks,
John Townsend,
John Polhemus,
Benjamin Whitehead,
Thomas Smith,
John Shoals,
Nathaniel Moore,
Samuel Hallet,
William Weyman,
Captain Thomas Hicks, Rockaway,
B. Lester, Hempstead.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

First List.

Frederick Philipse,
Caleb Morgan,
Nathaniel Underhill,
Samuel Merritt,
Peter Corne,
Dr. Peter Huggeford,

James Horton, Jun.,
William Sutton,
William Barker,
Joshua Purdy,
Abfalom Gidney.

Second List.

Solomon Fowler,

Richard Morris, Judge of Admiralty.

The Court-Room in the City Hall of the City of }
New-York, the 19th day of June, 1776. }

Mr. Morris offered to the Committee a draft of a Warrant to be issued
against dangerous persons described and named in the Resolutions of the
Provincial

Provincial Congress of the 5th of *June* instant; which, being read and considered, was agreed to, and is in the words following, viz:

In pursuance of certain Resolutions of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York* of the 5th day of *June* instant, we do authorize and require you forthwith to arrest and bring before us, at the City-Hall of the City of *New-York*, ..., whose conduct hath been represented to the said Congress as inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, and who, if summoned, would probably, in the opinion of the said Congress, not appear, but secrete himself; to the end that we, being the Committee of the said Congress, for that purpose, by the resolutions aforesaid, duly appointed and authorized, may inquire and determine in the premises. And bring with you then there this warrant.

Given at *New-York*, the day of *June*, 1776.

Form of Summons for suspected Persons.

SIR: By virtue of the authority vested in us by certain resolutions of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York* of the 5th day of *June*, in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and seventy-six, reciting that whereas there are in this Colony divers persons who, by reason of their holding offices from the King of *Great Britain*—from their having neglected or refused to associate with their fellow-citizens for the defence of their common rights— from their having never manifested, by their conduct, a zeal for, and attachment to the *American* cause— or from their having maintained an equivocal neutrality, have been considered by their countrymen in a suspicious light— whereby it hath become necessary, as well for the safety as for the satisfaction of the people, (who, in times so dangerous and critical, are naturally led to consider those as their enemies who withhold from them their aid and influence,) that certain persons in the said resolutions named, (of whom you are one,) who are generally supposed to come under the above description, should be summoned by a certain Committee, to show cause, if any they have, why they should be considered as friends to the *American* cause, and as of the number of those who are ready to risk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America* against the usurpation, unjust claims, and cruel oppressions of the *British* Parliament; which rights and liberties, and which unjust claims and cruel oppressions, are specified and stated in

divers

divers Addreffes, Petitions, and Remonfrances of the prefent and late Continental Congreffes; and directing certain proceedings in the faid refolutions fpecified to be by the faid Committee had againft fuch of the faid perfons as the faid Committee fhall not adjudge and determine to be friends to the *American* caufe:

We do, therefore, in purfuance of the faid Refolutions, fummmon you to appear before us at, on the . . . day of, at o'clock in the noon of the faid day, to fhew caufe (if any you have) why you fhould be confidered as a friend to the *American* caufe, and of the number of thofe who are ready to rifk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America*, againft the ufurpation, unjuft claims, and cruel oppreffions of the *Britifh* Parliament; which rights and liberties, and which unjuft claims and cruel oppreffions, are, as aforefaid, fpecified and ftated in divers Addreffes, Petitions and Refolutions of the prefent and late Continental Congreffes.

Dated the . . . day of, 1776.

To the Hon. *John Harris Cruger*.

The Committee adjourned till to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock, to meet at the fame place.

The Court-room in the City-Hall of the City of }
New-York, the 20th day of June, 1776. }

Certain Members of the Committee being obliged to attend to other bufinefs impofed on them by the Houfe, the Committee did not meet, but feveral of the Members agreed to meet to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at the fame place.

The Court-Room in the City-Hall of the City of }
New-York, the 21ft day of June, 1776 }

The Committee met purfuant to the agreement of yefterday.

Present—*John Jay*, Efq., Chairman, Mr. *Livingfton*, Mr. *Hobart*, Mr. *Ganfevoort*, Mr. *Morris*, Colonel *Graham*.

The Secretary reported that, purfuant to the order of this Committee of the 19th inftant, he had on that day duly fworn *Sampfon Dyckman*,
the

the Messenger of this Committee, faithfully to execute the duties and office of Messenger to this Committee.

The Secretary further reported that, pursuant to another order of this Committee of the same day, he, forthwith delivered the summonses made out this day, to the messenger, to be served; and that he delivered the other summonses to the Messenger yesterday morning, when the said Messenger informed him that *William McAdam*, to whom one of the first mentioned summonses was directed, was absent from home, and as the Messenger was informed by Mrs. *McAdam*, gone to a distant part of *New-Jersey*, from whence it was uncertain when he would return; and that he delivered the said summons to Mrs. *McAdam*.

That the Messenger further informed him that he had delivered the summons directed to *Oliver De Lancey*, Esq., to his wife, Mr. *D. L.* being, as she informed him, gone from home; and that he had delivered the summons directed to Mr. *Aptorp* and Mr. *Robert Bayard* to themselves, respectively.

That he had not served the summons directed to *George Brewerton*, he being (with his family) out of town.

Ordered, That the Secretary make out a number of blank Warrants, in the form directed by this Committee on the 19th day of *June* instant.

Ordered, That Mr. *Hubbard* and Colonel *Graham* prepare the draft of a Warrant proper to be issued against such persons of equivocal character as may neglect or refuse to appear on summons; and also of a summons proper to be issued to persons supposed to be inimical and dangerous to the cause of *America*.

The Committee adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow morning, to meet at the same place.

Examination of WILLIAM LEARY.

William Leary says that he came hither last *Monday*, about ten o'clock, in pursuit of *William Benjamin*, a workman of Mr. *Erskine*, who had run away from *Bigwood* Ironworks. He found the said *Benjamin* at the house of one *Forbes*, at the sign of *Robin Hood*. After taking him, *Forbes* ran and got a pistol for *Benjamin* to defend himself, and examinant took hold of *Benjamin* and prevented him from using the said pistol. Examinant carried the said *Benjamin* to *Paulus Hook* Ferry, who was there

there rescued by Sergeant *Cornet*, of Captain *Roosevelt's* company, and by the said captain enlisted. Examinant then met *James Majon*, one of the workmen of Mr. *Erskine*, who had some time ago been discharged. *James Majon* asked examinant if he did not want to see *James Ramsay*, *Christopher Wiley*, and *George Gammell*. Examinant said yes. *James Majon* said examinant might see them if he would take an oath that he did not come to take them up; which examinant refused, saying he would, nevertheless, be glad to see them. *Majon* asked examinant if he had run away; who answered in the affirmative. *Majon* then asked what examinant would do with himself, and whether he would do as he and the rest of them had done. Examinant asked what that was. *Majon* said he must go and be qualified, and then he would tell him. Examinant agreed to be qualified; but asked on what foundation? *Majon* told him he was to swear before a gentleman in this town to go on board of the man-of-war; that he (*Majon*) and his companions had so sworn, and were to receive wages and provisions until they should be able to get there. Examinant asked who the gentleman was that swore them. *Majon* replied it was a gentleman employed by the Mayor or Governor of the town; but the examinant thinks it was the Mayor who swore them and found provisions for them until they had an opportunity to get on board the man-of-war. *Majon* then conducted examinant to the house where *George Gammel*, *James Ramsay*, and *Christopher Wiley* lived. This house is a *Scotchman's*, just below the *Jews' Synagogue*, a private house; does not know the man's name. When examinant came in, *George Gammel* asked him if he was in pursuit of them; who answered in the negative. *George Gammel* then said, Did you come away in the same manner as we did? Examinant said yes. *Gammel* then said, we will have a drink together. *Gammel* said he would divulge his mind to examinant if examinant would be true to him. Examinant answered, "I will be as true to you as you are to me." *Gammel* then took examinant aside, and asked when he would go on board of the man-of-war. Examinant said he did not know, but would take the first good opportunity. Asked examinant if he wanted a pass. Examinant said he had a pass sufficient for him to go as far as he wanted. *Gammel* brought to examinant a person to give him a pass, whom examinant does not know, but believes he should know him again if he were to see him. Examinant said

said he wanted to see the *New England* encampment, to see one *Amos Hutchins*, a Captain; intending to decoy them thither, and have them apprehended. When examinant had got about half way up the *Broadway*, they discovered his pistols, and would have fled, thinking, as examinant supposes, that he meant to take them up. *James Ramsay* and *Christopher Wyley* ran off. Examinant pursued and caught *James Ramsay*. They then gathered together, and asked examinant why he carried pistols; who replied that they were for his defense, until with them he could get on board of the man-of-war. They being then suspicious, turned back; but examinant first asked *George Gammel* when he intended to go on board of the man-of-war, and how. *Gammel* answered 'I intend to leave town this night, and go to *Long Island*, and get from thence to the man-of-war;' but whether to get a person to put him on board, or to steal a boat or canoc, this examinant is not certain. *Gammel* then said the gentleman who was employed by the Mayor had desired them not to be seen more than two together. The gentleman had further told him the Riflemen were so thick on *Long-Island* as to prevent him from getting on board until a more convenient opportunity; and perhaps they might not get on board until General *Howe* arrived with his fleet. They expected a large body of men to join them from *Gospen*, and they were to get on board with the utmost despatch after General *Howe's* arrival.

WILLIAM LEARY.

Examined by, and sworn the 20th of *June*, 1776, before us.

JOHN JAY,

GOVERNEUR MORRIS.

Examination of JAMES MASON.

James Mason says: About two weeks and a half ago a man took his qualification that he would not divulge anything about the business he was then upon. When he went up to *Gospen* from *Kingwood*, about five weeks ago, to look for a place as a miller, he saw a man who had been four days on board the man-of-war, by name *William Forbes*, a tanner and currier by trade; that as you go up the *Broadway* you come to the street in which is the *Ojwegio* market, opposite to the south side of which, four doors from the corner of the *Broadway*, lives one *Lourie*, a tavern-keeper, a fat man, who wears a blue coat, and that he hath frequently met

met the said *William Forbes* in that house; that he told examinant he never lodged twice in the same house, being afraid; examinant asked where he did lodge, *Forbes* would not tell him; that *Forbes* hath a house of his own, five miles from *Gospen*, at which he saw him when examinant was looking for a place. *Forbes* told examinant he had been four days on board the man-of-war last *April*, when the ship *Savage* fired on *Staten-Island*; that Governour *Tryon* would give five guineas bounty and two hundred acres of land for each man, one hundred for his wife, and fifty for each child, upon condition they would enlist in his Majesty's service. Examinant bore *Forbes's* expenses to town, *Forbes* undertaking to repay him in hard cash when they got on board; that *Forbes* was to have a bounty from the Governour for every man he could get, and had been sent home for that purpose; that the Governour had desired him to go up and get as many men as he could; that the recruits were to assist the King's troops when they came; that recruits were not to go on board, because they could do more good on shore, and besides they were on short allowance in the ship and crowded, as *Forbes* told examinant. *Forbes* and examinant came to *New-York* by way of *Elizabethtown*, and in their way, at *Warwick*, *Forbes* enticed *William Benjamin* to go along with him, and at *Elizabethtown* *Forbes* inquired at Deacon *Ogden's*, where he used to work, and told examinant, after the inquiry, that they could not get on board from *Bergen-Point* or *Staten-Island*, as there were Riflemen stationed there, but must go to *New-York*, for that there was a man there, one *McLean*, a shoemaker, near the *Royal Exchange*, who was employed by the Governour to carry recruits on board; that *Forbes* and examinant came to *New-York* in an *Elizabethtown* boat, and went first to *Thomas Majon's* at the corner of *Beaver* street and *Broadway*, at the sign of the Highlander, where they left their baggage, and *William Benjamin* to take care of it, and went thence to *McLean's*, to inquire for a passage; that *McLean* and *Forbes* whispered together, and then *Forbes* told examinant that *McLean* said there was no opportunity of getting on board in two or three nights; that *McLean* recommended them to one *James Houlding*, a tavern-keeper in *Tryon* Row opposite the gate of the upper barracks, for lodging; that they went up to *Houlding's*, leaving *Benjamin* still at *Majon's*, and, after dusk, examinant went for *Benjamin*, and he and *Benjamin* carried the baggage up, and all three lodged at

Houlding's

Houlding's that night, telling *Houlding* Mr. *McLean* had sent and recommended them there as a safe house; next morning *Forbes* went to see for an opportunity to get on board, and did the like for two or three days; *Forbes* and *Benjamin* staid at *Houlding's* one week without being able to get on board of the man-of-war; *William Benjamin* agreed to go on board the man-of-war also, and accept the Governour's bounty; after the first week, as they could not get on board, *Houlding* observed that they ought to be spread about, for that keeping them together would occasion suspicion in his house; that one *Corbie*, who lives near General *Walbington's*, used to resort to the house of *Houlding*, where he was introduced to *Forbes*, and this examinant also got acquainted with *Corbie*; that many Tories resorted to *Houlding's*, amongst whom were two brothers, of the name of *Fortune*, the one a tanner, living in the *Swamp*, and the other a saddler, whom he hath seen working at *Cook's*, in the *Broadway*; also, one *Fueter* a silversmith, who was ridden about town for a Tory, and another of the same name, whom he takes to be his brother; also, a man without an arm, whom he believes to be an old pensioner, and *Gilbert Foster*, a gunsmith, living opposite to Mr. *Hull's* tavern, a short, thick man who wears a white coat; that these persons, as he believes, knew of the examinant's intention, but did not care to trust him, as he had not taken his qualification; that examinant was qualified before the said *Gilbert Forbes*, and the said *William Forbes*, at the house of the said *Corbie*; that *William Forbes* gave him the book, and that they made him swear not to divulge anything of what the examinant now tells; that when examinant was at *Houlding's*, *Gilbert Forbes*, *William Forbes*, and *Corbie*, advised examinant to go to *Corbie's* house and work a little in the garden to prevent suspicion. *Gilbert Forbes* promised examinant ten shillings per week subsistence money, of which this examinant hath, at different times, received twenty six shillings and eight pence; that the examinant complained ten shillings was too little; *Forbes* said he could not help it, but he would write to the Governour to try to get it increased to twelve; that he afterwards told examinant he could not get an answer, because a boat coming from the Governour was near being taken, and had thrown the letters overboard; that *William Benjamin* and *William Forbes* have also received money from the said *Gilbert*; that, according to the advice of the *Forbes* and *Corbie*, went to *Corbie's*, and continued there until

last

last Saturday; that while examinant lived at *Houlding's*, Corbie came there between nine and ten o'clock at night, and brought with him a mulatto-colored negro, dressed in blue clothes, about five feet eight inches high, well-set, but knows not his name or to whom he belongs, but is informed that he hath since been taken up and put in jail; when *Corbie* and the negro came in there was a great deal of whispering round between *Corbie*, *William Forbes*, the negro, and another man who had been waiting to get on board and did go on board that evening; that afterwards the examinant and *William Forbes* had some conversation about the negro; *Forbes* told him the negro was going on board the man-of-war with that man, and two or three more, but the craft was so small it would not carry them all for fear of discovery, wherefore he, *Benjamin*, and *William Forbes*, were obliged to stay behind; that when this examinant was qualified, there was present one *Clarke*, who had been a schoolmaster about eight or nine miles from *Gosben*, and with whom the said *William Forbes* was acquainted; that the said *Clarke* said in the examinant's hearing that he had enlisted about sixty men, of whom he had a list, and who were ready to assist when the troops came; that examinant believes the list was given to *Gilbert Forbes* to be sent to the Governour, for that the name of the examinant, *William Forbes* and *William Benjamin*, were taken down by the said *Gilbert*, as this examinant supposes, to be sent to the Governour; that one *Hickey*, of the General's Guards, he believes to be concerned, who is now in confinement; that one *Greene*, of the General's Guards, a drummer, is concerned, for that examinant saw *Gilbert Forbes* in conversation with said *Greene*, but could not hear them, and since that time *Greene* hath administered an oath to this *Hickey*, and some other soldiers of the General's Guards, and, as examinant is informed, is to have one dollar per man from *Forbes*, for every man he shall enlist; one *Barnes*, of the General's Guards, one *Johnson*, a fifer of the Guards, who, as well as *Greene* and *Hickey*, have been in the regular service, are qualified for the same purpose; that *William Benjamin* told examinant he heard *Gilbert Forbes* say that he would go to the Mayor and get one hundred pounds which he must have; that examinant and *William Forbes*, in their way from *William Forbes's* house, came to a fine house; that examinant asked what fine house that was; that *Forbes* said it belonged to the brother of the Mayor of New-York; that he knew him

him very well, and had been there several times and must go there now to tell him what he was going about, to know if he had any word to send to his brother, and that the examinant must walk on slowly and he would overtake him; that, at the door of the house examinant saw an old, short, thick, fat man; that *Forbes* stayed there about a quarter of an hour, and then followed and overtook the examinant, who asked *Forbes* if the Mayor's brother had given him any letter; *Forbes* said no, he had only desired him to tell his brother that he was well; that the Mayor's brother asked who the examinant was, and *Forbes* told him it was a young man going upon the same errand that he was. Examinant believes *Gilbert Forbes* is at the head here, and the Mayor and the Governour.

JAMES MASON.

Examined the 20th *June*, 1776, by us:

JOHN JAY,
GOVERNEUR MORRIS.

List of persons charged as enemies to AMERICA.

William Forbes, by trade a tanner and currier, formerly an inhabitant of *Orange County*.

Laurie, a tavern-keeper, (no sign,) four doors from the corner of *Broadway*, opposite the south side of *Oswego* market, in one of the low houses; a fat man, with a blue coat.

William Benjamin, an apprentice of Mr. *Erskine*, now a soldier in Captain *Roosevelt's* Company. Inquire of *William Leary*.

McLean, a shoemaker, near the *Royal Exchange*.

Thomas Mason, a tavern-keeper, at the sign of the Highlander, at the corner of *Beaver* street and *Broadway*.

James Houlding, a tavern-keeper, in *Tryon Row*, opposite the gate of the upper barracks, (no sign,) his name written over the door; a beer house.

Corbie, a tavern-keeper, to the southeast of General *Washington's* house, to the westward of *Bayard's* woods, and north of *Lippenard's* meadow.

Fortune, a tanner, living in the *Swamp*.

One *Fortune*.

Fortune, a saddler, who works at *Cook's*, in *Broadway*.

Fueter, a silversmith, who was ridden upon a rail lately.

Fueter,

Fueter, a brother of the other.

Gilbert Forbes, a gunsmith, opposite to *Hull's* tavern; a short thick man, with a white coat.

Clarke, formerly a schoolmaster about nine miles from *Gosben*.

James Ramsay, *Christopher Wyley*, *George Gammell*, three of Mr. *Erskine's* workmen. Inquire of *William Leary*.

John Taylor, formerly a constable in this town.

Forbes, a tavern-keeper, at the sign of *Robin Hood*.

McGinnes, a pensioner, with one arm.

Information respecting Dr. ARDEN and others at JAMAICA.

Doctor *Charles Arden*, was the person who instigated the Tories to sign against having a Congress or a Committee.

Benjamin Smith, (son of *Samuel Smith, Esq.*)

Robert Hinchman.

Thomas Smith, (son of *Thomas Smith*,) whom he threatened to hang if he would not sign a paper.

Isaac Leffertse. Bought the Widow *Belt's* farm. He wrote the affidavit of *Reckoff Duryee* about Parson *Ketteltas*, and carried Justice *French* to *Duryee's* for that purpose.

Captain *Benjamin Whitehead*, late Supervisor. Repeatedly refused to communicate to the town of *Jamaica* certain letters from the General Committee of *New-York*, requesting the town to be called together to elect members of a Committee or Congress. Witness: *Waters Smith*, or either of the other persons above named or Captain *Jacob Wright*.

Alexander Wallace. Resides at *Jamaica*, in *Wat Smith's* house.

— *Betbune*. He maintains an intimacy with *Benjamin Whitehead* and with *Dr. Arden*.

— *Martin*, from *Antigua*. Dwells in *Oba-Mills's* house, opposite the Meeting-House, at a high rent. He associates chiefly with *James Depeyster*.

Charles McEvers. Resides in *John Troop's* house.

Thomas Cologan and *Fleming Cologan* frequently go to *Creed's Hill* to look out; the two *Dunbar's*, *John William Livingston, Jun.*, and one of the *Cologan's*, were there lately, looking out for a fleet. That the *Dunbar's* shut themselves up, and refused to train or pay their fines.

John

John and William Dunbar.

George Folliot. Lives with *Jacques Johnson*, at *Eresh meadows*, about one-and-a-half mile from *Jamaica*.

Theophilact Bacbe, of *Flatbusb*, Comes to *Jamaica* to *Alexander Wallace's*.

James Depeyster. Lives next to *William Belle's*. His son, *Joseph Depeyster*, has been pursued several times, but cannot be taken. He is said to be a dangerous Tory.

June 21, 1776.

To His Excellency GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq., General;

SIR: Whereas *David Matthews*, Esquire, stands charged with dangerous designs and treasonable conspiracies against the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America*: We do, in pursuance of a certain resolve of the Congress of the Colony of the 20th of *June* instant, authorize and request you to cause the said *David Matthews* to be, with all his papers, forthwith apprehended and secured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which the warrant shall be executed, in order that the same may be made known to the said Congress.

Given under our hands, this 21st day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

General *Greene* is desired to have the within warrant executed with precision, and exactly by one o'clock the ensuing morning, by a careful officer.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Friday afternoon, June 21, 1776.

Long-Island, June 22, 1776.

In obedience to the within order and warrant, I sent a detachment of my brigade, under the command of Colonel *Vernon*, to the house of the
K within

within-named *David Matthews*, Esq., at *Flatbush*, who surrounded his house and seized his person precisely at the hour of one this morning. After having made him a prisoner, diligent search was made after his papers, but none could be found, notwithstanding great care was taken that none of the family should have the least opportunity to remove or destroy them.

NATHANIEL GREEN.

Flatlands, Friday, June 21, 1776.

Mrs. BREWERTON presents her compliments to Captain *Thomas Randall*, and begs to acquaint him that when she returned from the city to her family at *Flatlands*, she found a summons left at the house by a person from the Congress for Mr. *Brewerton* to attend on them at 10 o'clock this day. She begs it as a favour of Captain *Randall* to acquaint the gentlemen of the Congress that it has not been in her power to make Mr. *Brewerton* acquainted with it, as he went out yesterday morning fishing and does not expect to return till this evening or to morrow. On his return she will acquaint him with the summons, and makes no doubt but he will immediately attend the Congress.

To Captain *Thomas Randall*.

Scott's Tavern, in Wall street, June 22, 1776.

The committee met pursuant to adjournment. Present: Mr. *Hobart*, Mr. *Tredwell*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Randall*, Mr. *Gansevoort*.

The Committee unanimously chose Mr. *Hobart* Chairman *pro tempore*. *Whitehead Hicks*, Esq., attending on a summons returnable this day, was called in. The Chairman read to him part of the Resolutions of the Congress of this Colony relative to persons of equivocal character, and desired him to show cause to this Committee why he should be considered as a friend to the cause and rights of *America*.

Mr. *Hicks* says the cause he can show is only negative; that he defies envy itself to show anything in his conduct that is against his country; that he has for many years held honourable and lucrative Crown offices, unsolicited, and repeatedly sworn allegiance to the Crown; that in this situation, were his nerves stronger, he would not willingly personally take

up

up arms on the part of the country; that his father and brothers are strongly attached to, and engaged in, the *American* cause; that he therefore, as well as from principle, will never be induced to take up arms against his country; that some of his near relations are in the Continental Army; that he never advised or dissuaded any person, not even his servants or domesticks, in these matters; that his servant has been engaged in this country's service from the first of these troubles, and is now actually serving in the troops raised in this Colony, without the least contradiction or dissuasion on his part.

Mr. *Hicks* was then asked by the Chairman whether, in his opinion, the *British* Parliament has a right to tax *America*? He replied that he would be very unwilling to be taxed by the *British* Parliament.

The Chairman then asked him whether he was willing to subscribe the Association made by the Provincial Congress on the 20th instant; to which he replied that he could not sign it because he could not take up arms, and that, as an honest man, he could not sign anything which he did not mean to perform.

Mr. *Hicks* was then asked by the Chairman whether he thought the present measures of the Colonies in defending by arms justifiable. To this he replied that arms were the last resort, and justifiable where necessary as the last resort; but that he has not fully examined or considered whether every other necessary expedient had been previously used.

Mr. *Hicks* withdrew.

Resolved, unanimously, That *Whitehead Hicks*, Esq., is not such a friend to the cause and rights of *America* as is mentioned in the Resolutions of the Congress of the 5th day of *June* instant.

Resolved unanimously, That it is not necessary to remove Mr. *Hicks* from his present place of residence.

Resolved unanimously, That Mr. *Hicks's* Parole be taken that he will not oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress of this Colony, and that his Parole is sufficient security.

Mr. *Hicks* was called in and informed of the determinations of the Committee, and a copy of the Parole delivered to him.

Mr. *Hicks* read the copy of the Parole, and declared that he would wish to consider whether this Parole might in any manner interfere with his oath and office of a Judge, but had not any other objection to it.

The

The Committee informed Mr. *Hicks* that he might take time to consider of it.

Mr. *Hicks* requested, and the Committee consented, that Mr. *Hicks* consider thereof until *Monday* next, then to return the said Parole signed or to call on this Committee.

An order of the Congress of this Colony of the 21st instant, relative to *Samuel Whitten*, referring his case to this Committee, was read, and is in the words following, to wit:

A letter from *Robert H. Harrison*, General *Washington's* Secretary, enclosing a letter from General *Hand*, relative to a suspected dangerous man named *Samuel Whitten*, was received and read.

Ordered, That the said Letter be referred to the Secret Committee.

The Letter from Colonel *Hand*, exhibiting the charges against the said *Samuel Whitten*, was also read, and taken into consideration.

The said *Samuel Whitten* was called in. He says he crossed the ferry in a boat with some officers on *Thursday* last; that he was some thing in liquor, and spoke some thing too free. He then related the conversation with the officers during his passage across the ferry. He further says that he has been drafted for in Captain *Buchanan's* Company, in which company he is a Sergeant; that he voluntarily offered to take a chance of being drafted; that had he not been in the state he was he would not have said what he did at that time. *Whitten* further says that he thinks the *Americans* are right in their resistance by arms, and that he is willing to take up arms and defend the country; that he only mentioned it as his opinion that the troops would land at *Long Island*; that he never had any information of that kind.

The said *Samuel Whitten* subscribed the Association made by the Congress of this Colony on the 26th instant.

Thereupon, *Resolved*, That *Samuel Whitten* be discharged, and permitted to go at large.

Mr. *Samuel Martin*, attending pursuant to a summons from this Committee returnable this day, was called in. He says he attends in pursuance of a summons received last week.

The Chairman read to him the Resolutions of the Congress of this Colony of 20th instant, relative to persons of equivocal character, and desired

desired him to show cause, if any he had, why he should be considered as a friend to the *American* cause.

Mr. *Martin* says he has never done anything against the country, and is not an enemy to the country; that he always meant to remain as peaceable and inactive as he could.

The Chairman asked Mr. *Martin* if he chose to be considered as a friend to the *American* cause, and as one of those who are willing to risk their lives and fortunes in defence of *America*. Mr. *Martin* declared he should be sorry to be considered as an enemy to the country, and never meant to lift an arm against *America*.

The Chairman informed him that he now had an opportunity to distinguish himself as the friend of *America*.

He replied that he was ready to give any assurances that he would not take any active part against *America*; that he never meant to take up arms.

Mr. *Martin* being asked whether, in his opinion, the *British* Parliament has a right to tax *America*, he replied that, in his opinion, the Parliament has not a right to lay internal taxes on the Colonies. Being asked whether he did not think a tax on personal estates was equally unconstitutional, he replied that he did not, if it was for the regulation of trade; but that he is not a politician, and has confined his studies to his own profession.

Mr. *Martin* when asked whether he would give security that he would not oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress or of the Congress of this Colony. He replied that he would, but that he did not know of any person in this city to apply to to be his security, that he would apply to his father, who resides on *Long-Island*, who would be his security.

Mr. *Martin* withdrew.

Resolved, unanimously, that Samuel *Martin* is not a friend to the *American* cause.

The Chairman then put the question, whether it is necessary to remove Samuel *Martin* from his present place of residence?

The Committee unanimously agreed that they have not sufficient information to determine that question at present, and therefore agreed to defer the further consideration thereof till to-morrow morning.

Mr.

Mr. *Martin* was called in and informed thereof and desired to attend at the City Hall to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock.

Robert Fenton, of the City of *New-York*, Brags-founder, being sworn, saith: That five or six weeks ago, at his own house, one *Jacob Lefee*, master of a periagua of *John Rapalye*, asked him if there was any such thing as getting rifles in town. Deponent answered that he did not believe there was one. *Lefee* said he believed there were many, for that he had been applied to to carry a considerable number of them on board the *Asia*. Deponent asked him by whom. He replied that he would not tell, but that he had refused to take them. That deponent has heard since that the said rifles were afterwards carried on board, but did not understand by whom.

ROBERT FENTON.

Sworn the 22d *June*, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY.

Thomas Fletcher, a Private in Captain *Newell's* Company of artillery, being sworn saith: That this deponent was lately a private in Colonel *Huntingdon's* Regiment, in Captain *Truebridge's* Company; that about a month ago one *John Campbell*, a shoemaker, living next door to the sign of the Buck, opposite to the western side of the *Fly* market, employed him to work as a journeyman with him at such times as he was not on duty; that after deponent had worked with him a while, he was pleased with deponent's work and endeavored to persuade him to enlist, saying, 'Damn the Congress; who gave them liberty to raise soldiers? Come with me, I will conceal you, or send you off, as I have done with two or three others;' that deponent consented, and was concealed by him for two weeks and a half, and finding that he could not clear his conscience in what he had done, he sent for his comrade and delivered himself up, and hath ever since done his duty as a soldier; he has frequently heard the said *Campbell* in conversation curse the Congress—say he wished the whole town were all Tories, and that the Mayor was as big a one as any in it. And further this deponent saith not.

THOMAS FLETCHER.

Sworn the 22d *June*, 1776, before us:

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNOUR MORRIS.
Daniel

Daniel Gray, of *Stamford*, in *Connecticut*, being sworn, saith: That *Nathaniel Williams*, of *Huntingdon*, told him the day before yesterday that a gentleman had reported there that as he was by a fence by the road, *Hugh Wallace*, *Theophilact Bache*, *Charles McEvers*, and three others, whose names this deponent hath forgotten, passed by and he overheard them saying that the enemy were to land at *Rapahy's* mills, take possession of the forts on *Long-Island*, and thence play on the town, and that they were to be joined by the forces on *Long-Island*. And further saith not.

DANIEL GRAY.

Sworn the 22d day of *June*, 1776:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Hugh Stevenjon, being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelist of *Almighty God*, deposeth and saith: That on the 18th of this instant *June* he bought fifteen pounds of powder of *Mr. Nicholas Conery*, at the sign of the Red Lion, between *Bateman's* and *Burling's* slip, in *New-York*, and that some time past he (this deponent) bought ten pounds of the said *Conery*, and that he supposed it came from on board the *Asia*. And further this deponent saith not.

Sworn before me this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

ABEL BELKNAP.

Chair'n Com. Insp'n for Precinct of Newburgh.

Cornelius Platt, being sworn, deposeth and saith: That he came from *New-York* with *Mr. Hugh Stevenjon* in his boat last *Wednesday*; that on his passage *Mr. Stevenjon* told him he had some thing on board, that if it was found out it would be as much as his neck and his whole sloop were worth. This deponent asked *Mr. Stevenjon* what it was, *Stevenjon* answered it was fifteen pounds of powder; who was asked if it was our country powder. He said not; it came from the *Asia* man-of-war. He further asked him what he expected to do with it. His answer was, that he expected to sell it at one dollar per pound; that fifteen pounds of powder, would fetch him fifteen dollars. The deponent further saith that he and *Mr. Stevenjon* had some discourse about the times, when *Mr.*

Stevenjon

Stevenson told him that he expected that all these officers would soon be swung up, and the deponent took it that he meant all these Continental officers. At the last of the time this deponent asked *Stevenson*, whether he intended to sell his powder to the Tories. He told him he did not. And further this deponent saith not.

Sworn before me this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

ABEL BELKNAP.

Chair'n Com. Insp'n for Precincts of Newburgh.

To Captain ABEL :

SIR : Whereas *Peter McLean* of the City of *New-York*, Shoemaker, stands charged with dangerous designs and treasonable conspiracies against the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America* : We do, in pursuance of a certain resolve of the Congress of this Colony of the 20th of *June* instant, authorize and request you to cause the said *Peter McLean* to be, with all his papers, forthwith apprehended and secured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant shall be executed, in order that the same may be made known to the said Congress.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,

JOHN JAY,

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

To WILLIAM ALLISON, Esquire, and Colonel CLINTON, or either of them.

GENTLEMEN : Whereas *James Matthews* stands charged with dangerous designs and treasonable conspiracies against the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America* : We do, in pursuance of a certain resolve of the Congress of this Colony of the 20th of *June* instant, authorize and request you to cause the said *James Matthews* to be, with all his papers, forthwith apprehended and secured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant shall be executed, in order that the same may be made known to the said Congress.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,

JOHN JAY.

The

The within named *James Matthews*, taken at his place of abode in *Cornwall Precinct, Orange County*, pursuant to the within warrant, and delivered to the Committee, but no papers containing information relative to the conspiracy.

Per me,

WILLIAM ALLISON.

New-York, June 25, 1776.

To WILLIAM ALLISON and Colonel CLINTON, or either of them.

GENTLEMEN: Whereas *William Forbes* and — *Clarke* stand charged with dangerous designs and treasonable conspiracies against the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America*: We do, in pursuance of a certain resolve of the Congress of this Colony of the 20th of *June* instant, authorize and request you to cause the said *William Forbes* and — *Clarke* to be, with all their papers, forthwith apprehended and secured, and that return be made to us of the mannner in which this warrant shall be executed, in order that the same may be made known to the said Congress.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
JOHN JAY.

In pursuance of the within warrant, went in search of the within named *William Forbes* and — *Clarke* to the upper end of *Orange County*, their usual place of abode, but found they were gone off; but on returning to *New-York*, found them in custody of the guards.

WILLIAM ALLISON.

New-York, June 25, 1776.

To Captain ABEL :

SIR: Whereas, *John Campbell* stands charged with dangerous designs and treasonable conspiracies against the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America*: We do in pursuance of a certain resolve of the Congress of this Colony of the 20th of *June* instant, authorize and request you to cause the said *John Campbell* to be, with all his papers,

L

forthwith

forthwith apprehended and secured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant shall be executed, in order that the same be made known to the said Congress.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
PHILIP LIVINGSTON.

To General GREENE, Nassau Island :

SIR : Whereas *George Brewerton*, Esq., stands charged with dangerous designs and treasonable conspiracies against the rights and liberties of the United Colonies of *America* : We do, in pursuance of a certain resolve of the Congress of this Colony of the 20th of *June* instant, authorize and request you to cause the said *George Brewerton* to be, with all his papers, forthwith apprehended and secured, and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant shall be executed, in order that the same may be made known to the said Congress.

Given under our hands this 22d day of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS,
JOHN J. Y.

Camp Long-Island, June 22, 1776.

Captain JEREMIAH ALNEY :

You will take such a party out of the brigade as will be necessary to carry the within order of Congress into execution, and serve *Brewerton* with this warrant, seize his person, and secure his papers, agreeable to the within warrant, as soon as may be, and bring him and them to me, and report your doings herein.

NATHANIEL GREENE.

June 25th.—Captain *Alney* has made two attempts, agreeable to the report accompanying this, to take Alderman *Brewerton* prisoner, but was not successful. This day he came and delivered himself up. Have sent him under the care of Captain *Brown*.

NATHANIEL GREENE.

June

June 23, 1776.

Sampson Dyckman now present, returns, that he left the summons directed to *James Jauncey*, Jun., Esq., on *Thursday* last, with the master of the house where *Mr. Jauncey* lodges, who then informed him that *Mr. Jauncey* was gone abroad with his wife, and had been absent some days, but was expected to return on that or the next day.

That he delivered the summonses directed to *William Axtell*, *David Matthews*, *Charles McEvers*, and *Whitehead Hicks*, Esquires, to themselves respectively, *Thursday* last, and on the same day left the summons directed to *George Brewerton*, Esq., at his lodgings at *Flatlands*, with a woman there, said to be his housekeeper.

That on *Friday* last he delivered the summons directed to *Thomas Jones*, *Samuel Martin*, and *George D. Ludlow*, Esquires, to themselves respectively; that on that day he delivered the summons directed to *Gabriel Ludlow* to a woman in his house, said to be *Mrs. Ludlow*, his wife, who informed him that *Mr. Gabriel Ludlow* was not at home; and that he also left the summons directed to *Samuel Clowes* at his house, with his wife, who said he was not at home.

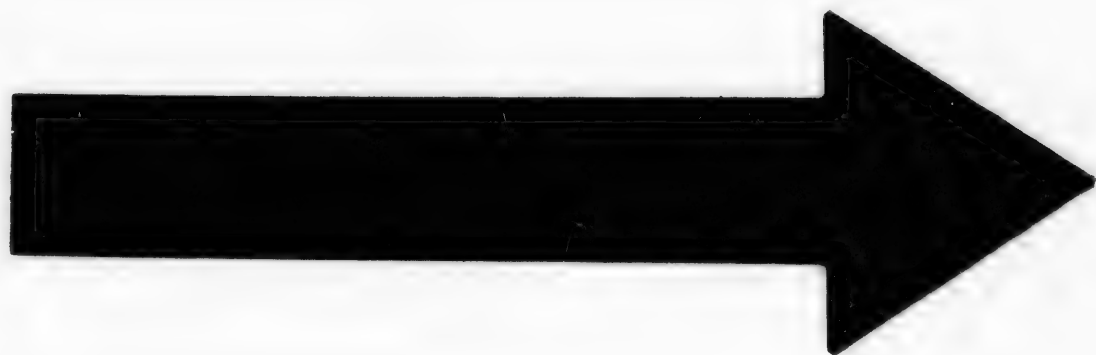
That on *Saturday* morning last he delivered the summonses directed to *Archibald Hamilton*, *David Colden*, and *John Willett*, Esquires, to themselves respectively; that the summons directed to *Richard Colden*, he delivered to a woman at his house, whom he supposed to be his wife; that each summons which he did not serve personally, he desired the person to whom he delivered it to send or deliver it to the person to whom it was directed as soon as possible. That the summons directed to *Thomas Hicks*, at *Rockaway*, he delivered to the Secretary after his return to *New-York*, as the said *Thomas Hicks* is deceased upwards of four months ago, from the best information which he could obtain.

New-York, June 23, 1776.

GENTLEMEN: According to your orders of the 22d instant to me, I have taken all the prisoners mentioned in them, to wit: *William Forbes*, *John Clark*, *Anthony Clark*, and *John Campbell*, whom I have delivered to the guard, and am ready to execute any further commands I shall receive, having the guard for this day.

I am, gentlemen, your most humble servant,

JAMES ABEEL.



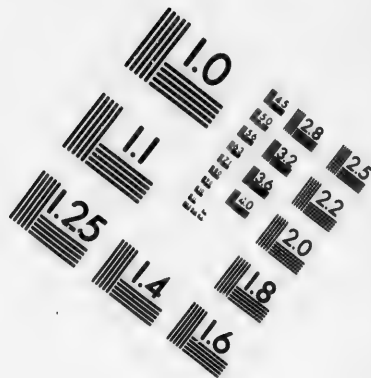
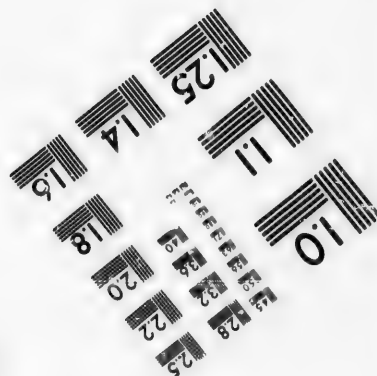
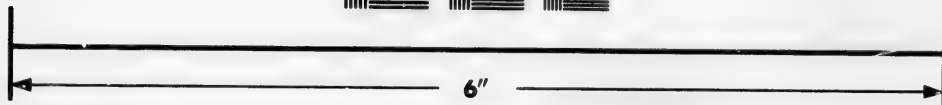
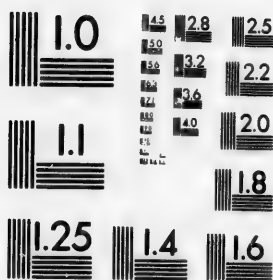


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David Matthews, Esq., Mayor of the City of *New-York*, being examined, saith: That about six or seven weeks ago the examinant went on board the *Dutchess-of-Gordon*, by permission of General *Putnam*, to obtain from the Governour permission for Lord *Drummond* to go to *Bermuda*; that as the examinant was about to leave the *Dutchess*, the Governour took him into his private room, and put a bundle of paper money into his hands, telling examinant to take out five pounds and give it to the prisoners in the Jail, and pay the remainder to *Gilbert Forbes*, for some rifles and round-bored guns which he had made for him, and for others which the said *Forbes* was to make, and to tell *Forbes* that he did not want any more rifles; that this examinant was surpris'd to hear that the said *Forbes* was engaged in that business, and at the same time thought that Governour *Tryon* had put a matter on his shoulders which might bring him into some difficulty; that the examinant, on his return to this city, consulted a friend of his, telling him that he would mention a matter to him which he believed would surprise him; and then informed him that *Gilbert Forbes* had supplied the Governour with a number of arms, and was employed in that business; and that examinant had brought up the money to pay him, at the same time mentioning that he thought the Governour had put a hard task on his shoulders; that examinant then advis'd with him what he should do, and asked him whether he would take the money and endeavor to convey it to him privately, which he declined doing, and said that he would mention the matter so to *Gilbert Forbes* as that he would be able to determine by his answers whether he was the man; that to this examinant consented; that examinant, after leaving his friend, concluded that it would be best not to pay the said money to *Forbes*, but to delay it as long as possible, that in case of a discovery, the examinant might avail himself of not having paid, although he had received the said money; that shortly after *Forbes* called on this examinant, and told him that he had been desir'd by the gentleman to whom this examinant had mentioned it, to call on him for the money examinant had received for him of Governour *Tryon*; that examinant then asked him if it were possible that he had been sending guns on board the Governour's ship; to which he answered in the affirmative; that examinant then told him he would be hanged if he was found out, and requested him, if he regarded his safety, that he would not go on with such schemes; that

that he said he could send them on board in such a way that nobody could find it out; that he had sent them on board in a canoe or boat, covered with a straw bed, and two or three old chairs upon it; that he then asked examinant to pay him the money; to which examinant answered, that he was to receive money, and as soon as he got it, he would pay it to him; on which they parted; that a few days after he called on examinant again to know whether examinant had received the money, for that he wanted it very much; examinant told him he had not; and the better to account for delays, the examinant had recourse to this subterfuge, that the Governour had given him positive orders not to receive any payments for him but in *York* or *Jersey* money; that with this he seemed pleased, and requested examinant to pay him in that money, because with it he could purchase certain articles necessary in his business cheaper than with any other; that he then informed examinant that he had a number of men whom he wanted to send down to the Governour; that examinant told him that he might save himself that trouble, for that the Governour had told this examinant that he had been obliged to turn many on shore, and could not receive any more; on which *Forbes* expressed some concern as to what he should do with them; on which examinant desired him to tell the men to go to their homes and drop any such schemes; that shortly after the said *Forbes* again called on this examinant for the money, and mentioned a scheme of raising a company, and requested to know whether he could have a commission; that examinant, on this, begged of him to desist from such a scheme, for that he would certainly be discovered, and the gallows would be his lot, and that it would be time enough for him to enlist men or act when he got his commission; that he said he could carry it on so as not to be found out, and that he could enlist a number of the General's Guards; that on this they parted; that this examinant then found out that Mr. *Forbes* became so troublesome to him that, in order to get out of his way and stave off the payment aforesaid, this examinant kept more in the country than he would otherwise have done; then, on *Forbes* finding this, he pursued examinant up to *Flatbush*, and not finding him there, pursued him to *Polbemis*, about four miles from *Jamaica*, in order to get his money; that this examinant, finding there was no way to get rid of him, told him that on *Monday* examinant would come to town and pay

pay him his money, which was accordingly done, viz: one hundred and fourteen pounds eight shillings, and examinant then hoped that he should not be plagued with him any more; that the next day examinant again came to town, and had been in his house but a few minutes when *Forbes* came into examinant's office; that examinant told him he must never come into examinant's office any more, on which he went away without saying a word; that *John Young*, the examinant's clerk, was present and then in the said office, and that examinant has not seen the said *Forbes* since; that at the time when the said *Forbes* called on the examinant as aforesaid, he mentioned to this examinant a scheme he had of taking possession of one of the batteries when the fleet arrived, and another scheme of cutting down *King's* bridge; that this examinant desired his friend above-mentioned to advise and beg the said *Forbes* to desist from the said measures and give them over; that this examinant has never since or before received from Governour *Tryon* any other sum whatever for any such purposes whatever. That shortly before the time when this examinant paid the afore-said money to the said *Forbes*, this examinant was at *Waldron's Ferry*, standing near *John Carpenter's* sloop, and that the said *Forbes*, being in company with one Sergeant *Graham*, turned off from said *Graham* and came up to this examinant; that this examinant asked him where he had been; he answered that he had been to look at all the fortifications; examinant asked him whether he was not afraid of being taken up by the sentries, to which he replied that he was not, for that he could go there whenever he pleased. That about the time when this examinant paid the money aforesaid to *Forbes*, this examinant being in office, a man in regimentals came in, which alarmed this examinant; that he asked him whether he wanted this examinant; he asked examinant whether he was the Mayor, to which examinant replied he was, and asked him what he wanted; he observed to this examinant, that examinant did not know him, for that he had never seen him before; examinant said he did not know him; he told examinant he was one of General *Washington's* Guards, and meant to serve the king; examinant told him he had nothing to do with enlisting men for the king; he said he had enlisted some that morning himself, and was about to pull a paper out of his pocket, in order to show examinant their names; that examinant told him he did not want to know their names

names, and had nothing to do with them, and advised him to return to his quarters, for that if he was discovered he would be brought to the gallows ; on which he went away, and examinant has neither seen nor heard of him since. That another man, a little before the time last mentioned, who said he came from the country, and knew examinant's father and brother, came to this examinant to see if he could not get on board the ship ; examinant asked him why he left his home ; he said he had been so persecuted he could not stay ; examinant advised him to return and keep himself quiet, and that examinant imagined nobody would hurt him ; that he replied he must and would get on board some how or other, for that he did not dare to go back ; examinant then asked his name, which he told him was *Forbes* ; examinant told him then that he did not know of a likelier person to serve him than a namefake of his that was in town ; he asked examinant if he meant *Gilbert Forbes*, to which he replied yes ; he said he knew him, and went in quest of him ; and that examinant has never seen him since. That several other persons, unknown to this examinant, have at different times called on this examinant to inquire how they might get on board the ship, and that examinant always advised them to return home ; and since examinant's interview afore said with the Governour, he told such as called upon him for the purpose afore said that there was no room for them on board ; that many had been turned away, and that they had better go home. That this examinant has no further knowledge than what he has as afore said declared relative to any persons being engaged in the business of enlisting men for the King's service, or in keeping up a communication between the city and the Governour's ship, or men-of-war at the *Narrows*. That this examinant does not know otherwise than by sight, and has never spoken or written a line to *Peter McLean*, a shoemaker in the town, on any subject whatever.

D. MATTHEWS.

New-York, June 23, 1776.—Examined by

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

William Forbes, of *Gospen* Precinct, in *Orange* County, Tanner and Currier, being examined, saith : That he knows *Gilbert Forbes*, of the city

city of *New York*, gunsmith; that the first time he saw him was in this city, between the Brick Meeting and the Jail; that he heard somebody call him *Mr Forbes*; this examinant accosted him and told him that his name was *Forbes* also; that thereupon they went into *Houlding's* tavern and drank together; that he has been at the house of the said *Gilbert Forbes*, on an invitation from him. That he knows a Sergeant in General *Washington's* Guards, but cannot recollect his name; that he became acquainted with him at *Corby's*, (an inn-keeper,) near General *Washington's*; that this examinant went to *Corby's* in company with one *James Majon*, of *Ringwood*, who was at work in *Corby's* garden; that the Sergeant was a middle-sized, fresh complexioned man — an *Englishman*; that examinant became acquainted with *James Majon* at *Dutchess* County; afterwards saw him at *Goshen*, and from thence came in company with him to this town; that he told *Majon* he had been on board the man-of-war last winter, while she lay in the *East River*; that he never was on board the *Dutchess-of-Gordon*; that he never said he was on board the *Savage* when she fired on *Staten-Island*. That he had heard, and, among others, from the said *Majon*, that two hundred acres of land were offered by Governour *Tryon* to each man who would go in the King's service, and one hundred to the wife, and fifty to each child. That examinant borrowed twenty odd shillings of *Majon*, and promised to repay him when examinant got money from on board the man-of-war, where he had two brothers-in-law, who had promised to send him money to pay his debts. That he never engaged with Governour *Tryon*, or with any other person whatever to undertake the business of enlisting soldiers for the King, nor of enticing the Continental soldiers to leave that service. That he and *Majon* came to town by way of *Elizabethtown*, and that at *Warwick*, *Majon* persuaded one *William Benjamin* to go along with them. That he knows *Peter McLean*, a shoemaker, near the Exchange; that examinant applied to him to put him on board the man-of-war; that *McLean* answered he could not do it at all, the sentries were so strict; that examinant then said to *McLean* that then he would enlist in the Continental service, which he has since done, in Captain *Beekman's* Company, of *Lafayette's* Battalion. That examinant, *Majon*, and *Benjamin* lodged, the first night they came to town, at *Houlding's*; that while they were there *Corby* was introduced

to *Benjamin* and *Mason* by *Gilbert Forbes*; *Corby* took them to his house, where this examinant has seen them, in company with *Gilbert Forbes* and the aforefaid Sergeant of the Guards. This examinant saw the said Sergeant and *Gilbert Forbes* administer oaths of secrecy to *Mason* and two or three soldiers; that *Corby* was present when the said soldiers were sworn as aforefaid. That after *McLean* had, as aforefaid, told this examinant that he knew not how to get on board the man-of-war, *McLean* recommended him to *David Matthews*, Esq., as a proper person to direct him how to get on board the man-of-war; that examinant accordingly went to Mr. *Matthews* and told him that *McLean* had directed examinant to him as a proper person to tell him how he should get on board the man-of-war, and that there was a lad (meaning *Mason*) who had come down from *Ringwood*, and wanted to go along; that Mr. *Matthews* told him it was too dangerous for him to say anything about it, but that he would direct him to one that could get him on board, and sent this examinant for that purpose to *Gilbert Forbes*; that this examinant accordingly applied to the said *Gilbert Forbes*, and that *Forbes* said he could not do anything in it till he had seen *Corby*; that shortly after the said *Gilbert Forbes* told this examinant that he had seen *Corby*, and that *Corby* said he would get examinant on board in a few days; that examinant afterwards saw *Corby*, and that he made the like promise to examinant, but *Corby* afterwards told him he could not; and that he had been able to send only one on board, by a mulatto fellow. That this examinant knows *John Clarke*; and that he told this examinant that he had fifty or sixty men to go in the King's service, and that he had prevailed upon his brother, *Anthony Clarke*, to consent to go with them; that *John Clarke* was to be a Captain, and that one *Seely*, of *Chester*, in *Orange County* was also to be one of the officers.

WILLIAM FORBES.

Examined the 23d day of *June*, 1776, before us:

JOHN JAY,

GOVERNEUR MORRIS.

City of NEW-YORK, ss:

James Savage, being examined, saith, That he hath not, during the present troubles, enlisted or engaged any men in the service of the King,

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OF

or kept up or held any correspondence with any persons on board the *Dutchess-of-Gordon*, or the ships or vessels of war at the *Narrows*.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

New-York, June 23, 1776.

John Clarke, of *Blooming Grove*, in *Orange* County, Painter and Glazier, saith, That he never hath enlisted any men for the King, nor engaged any; nor hath he ever said so. That he hath seen *Gilbert Forbes* at his shop; went there with *William Forbes* to see if said *Gilbert* would subscribe for a perspective view of *Quebeck*; that he did not tell *William Forbes* that he was concerned in enlisting men, nor that he was employed by Governour *Tryon*; that he did not tell said *William Forbes*, or any other person, that he had enlisted any men, that he did not desire *Gilbert Forbes* to get him a passage on board the Governour's ship, and that he never hath been on board the Governour's ship, nor attempted to go there.

JOHN CLARKE.

Examination taken the 23d *June*, 1776, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

John Kearl, of the city of *New-York*, Shoemaker, being sworn, saith. That he has for some time past worked as a journeyman with *Peter McLean*, near the Exchange; that the said *McLean* has worked, and both made and mended shoes for people on board the *Asia* since she has been down at the *Narrows*, as the said *McLean* informed this deponent; but this deponent knows not in what manner the said shoes were conveyed on board, or by whom. That this deponent has seen a countryman of the name of *Forbes*, frequently at *McLean's*, also one *Houlding*, an Inn-keeper near the Barracks, and *Edward Nicolls*, confectioner; and further saith not.

JOHN KEARL.

Examined and sworn 23d *June*, 1776, by and before

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City

City of New-York, ss :

Abraham Ackerman, commonly called *Abraham Jones*, of *Clarkestown*, *Orange* County, being sworn, saith, That about a fortnight or three weeks ago this deponent came to this city in order to get a birth on board some vessel; that he lodged at the house of *Peter McLean*, a shoemaker, near the Exchange; that he has seen one Mr. *Edward Nicolls* and one *Peter Lenge*, a confectioner, often at *McLean's*, and heard them talk very much like Tories; that he has often seen a man there whose name he has since heard to be *Forbes*, a countryman; that *McLean* used to go fishing often; that this deponent believes that *McLean* is now at *Bull's Ferry* — his wife has gone there (as he says,) once or twice a week ever since *McLean* left this city, which was at the time some Tories were carried about on rails; and further saith not.

ABRAHAM ACKERMAN.

Sworn and examined the 23d June, 1776, before us :

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,

JOHN JAY,

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

John Craig, late a soldier of the Eighteenth Regiment, being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists of *Almighty God*, deposeth and saith, That being now a prisoner in the common jail of the City and County of *New-York*, he has frequently observed that Captain *Savage*, a prisoner now in the said jail, hath received sundry letters from persons on board the King's ship and the *Dutchess-of-Gordon*, as he believes, by means of one *James*, a tall man, with lightish coloured clothes, marked with the small-pox, light hair, about forty years of age; and another of the name of *Matthews*, a person about five feet six inches high, well set and a dark complexion; that the last of the two on *Wednesday* last was in the jail, and this deponent heard Captain *Savage* say, 'Matthews, stay a few minutes and I will have them all ready; meaning certain letters which he was then writing, to go on board the said ships. And this deponent further saith, that the said Captain *Savage*, hath inveigled a number of the Continental troops to enlist in his Majesty's service, among whom are one *Irwin*, belonging to Captain *Hardenberg's* Company, and late of the Twenty-Sixth Regiment of Foot; *Peter McCloskey*, of the same company

company, a fifer, and late of the same regiment; *Richard Smith*, of the same company, late of the Seventh Regiment of Foot; and *James Johnson*, a fifer of the General's Guards. And this deponent further saith, that *Gilbert Forbes*, who is, as he is informed, committed by order of a Committee of the Congress, is confined in the room opposite to him; that a sentry was placed on the outside of the door of the room in which said *Forbes* is confined; that the outer and inner doors were shut; and, about ten o'clock at night, *Peter Chiles*, at the request of said *Forbes*, and of the Tories, in the jail, opened the inner door, that said *Forbes* might as he said have air; that *Chiles* opened the inner door by pushing the bolts back with the ramming-rod of the sentry, who was placed at the door. That after the door was opened, the said *Forbes*, by means of a hole in the outer door, conversed freely with the Tories in the passage; that *Harris* the midshipman taken by the Riflemen from on board the *Savage*, and Mr. *Medcalf*, spoke to him; and the said *Forbes* gave two half pints of liquor to the woman to sing Tory songs. And further this deponent saith, that Mr. *Harris* hath written sundry letters, as well as the said Captain *Savage*, to go on board the said ships; and that Mr. *Harris* and Mr. *Elder* are, as this deponent believes, concerned with the said Captain *Savage* in inlisting the men; and further this deponent saith not.

JOHN CRAIG.

Sworn the 23d of June, 1776, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City of NEW-YORK, ss:

John Andrew, a Corporal of Captain *Dewit's* Minute Company at *Rhinebeck*, and now a prisoner in the same room with the above-named *John Craig*, being duly sworn, deposeeth and saith, That the several matters and facts in the above deposition contained are, to the best of his knowledge and belief, true, the said *John Andrew*, from being confined in the same room with the said *John Craig*, being in the like manner

manner with the said *John Craig* privy to the several matters and things contained in the said affidavit.

his
"JOHN X ANDREW.
mark.

Sworn the 23d of *June*, 1776, before us:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Monday, ten o'clock A. M., June 24, 1776.

The Committee met in the Council-Chamber in the City-Hall of the City of New-York, pursuant to the agreement of Yesterday, the Court-Room being occupied by prisoners and guard.

Present: *John Jay*, Esq., Chairman, Mr. *Philip Livingston*, Mr. *Hobart*, Mr. *Randall*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Morris*, Mr. *Ganseevoort*

Mr. *Axtell* attended in pursuance of the summons from this Committee, and returnable this day.

The Chairman informed Mr. *Axtell* of the Resolutions of the Congress relative to persons of equivocal character, and told him the Committee hoped he would give them evidence of his being a friend to the *American* cause.

Mr. *Axtell* appealed to the uniform tenour of his conduct, which he said, had never been unfriendly to this country.

The Chairman then asked him whether he approved of the *American* opposition. He replied that he did not of the whole, and signified his disapprobation of the *Canada* expedition.

The Chairman asked him whether he thought the Parliament of *Great Britain* had a right to bind these Colonies in all cases whatsoever. To which he replied that, in his opinion, they had not.

The Chairman then asked him whether resistance by arms to the hostile attempts of the *British* fleets and armies, to execute and enforce those claims to this question, was justifiable.

Mr. *Axtell* declined to give an answer, declaring that he did not mean to take an active part on either side—that the bulk of his fortune was in *Britain* and the *West-Indies*.

Mr. *Axtell* was then desired to withdraw.

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And the Committee went into a consideration of Mr. *Axtell's*, case in the course of which the following questions were put by the Chairman. Whether Mr. *Axtell* is such a friend to the country as is described in the said resolutions? Carried unanimously in the negative.

2d. Whether it is necessary to remove Mr. *Axtell* from his present place of residence? On which Mr. *Morris* moved that the question be deferred for consideration. Which was carried in the negative.

The question being then put, Whether he shall be removed from his present place of residence? Agreed unanimously in the negative.

The question was then put, whether any other security should be demanded of Mr. *Axtell* than his parole? Agreed unanimously that his parole is sufficient, and that no other security be required.

Mr. *Axtell* was then called in, and desired to give his parole that he would not, directly or indirectly, oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress or of the Congress of this Colony. Mr. *Axtell* objected that the parole is so broad that it may admit of disfigurable constructions of such part of his conduct as he may think the most innocent, and offered to give his parole not to take an active part against the *American* cause.

A copy of the parole was then given unto him, and he was desired to consider the same, and attend this Committee again on *Thursday* next.

John Willett, Esq., attending on a summons returnable here this day, was called in; and the resolutions of the Congress of this Colony as to persons of equivocal character, read to him by the Chairman.

The said *John Willett*, was then asked by the Chairman whether he had any evidence to give, or could show cause why he should be considered as a friend to *America*, &c. To which he replied that he had no other reason but his opinion that the Parliament have no right to lay internal taxes on *America*.

Said *John Willett* was then asked if he would sign the Association by the Provincial Congress made on the 20th instant. To which he replied that he had no other objection to it but that he did not choose to take up arms.

Said *John Willett* was then asked whether he thought the cause of *America* just or unjust. To which he replied he was not a proper judge of the matter.

Said

Said *John Willett* was then asked whether he was for the Congress or against it. To which he replied he was not against it.

Said *John Willett* was then asked if he was for the Congress. To which he replied he should never disturb them.

Said *John Willett* was then asked to whom he wished success — General *Washington* or General *Howe*. To which he replied he wished those might succeed who had justice on their side.

Said *John Willett* was then asked on which side he thought justice was. To which he replied he was no judge, but wished that justice might take place.

The said *John Willett* was then requested to withdraw.

Resolved unanimously, That the said *John Willett* is not a friend to the cause and rights of *America*.

Resolved unanimously, That it is not necessary to remove the said *John Willett* from his rated place of residence.

Resolved unanimously, That the said *John Willett* give bond to the President of the Congress of this Colony for the time being, by name, in the sum of two thousand pounds, that he will neither directly nor indirectly contravene or oppose the measures of the Continental Congress or of the Congress of this Colony.

The said *John Willett* was then called in, and did consent to give such bond; wherefore,

Ordered, that Mr. *McKesson* prepare and get the same executed by the said *John Willett*.

Know all men by these presents, that I, *John Willett*, of the Township of *Jamasca*, in *Queens* County, of the Colony of *New-York*, Esquire, am held and firmly bound unto *John Haring*, Esq., President of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, in the sum of two thousand pounds, lawful money of *New-York*, to be paid to the said *John Haring* or to his certain attorney, executors, administrators and assigns; for which payment well and truly to be made and done, I bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, firmly by these presents.

Scaled with my seal, and dated this twenty-fourth day of *June*, in the year of our Lord one thousand, seven hundred and seventy-six.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that if the above-bound *John Willett* shall neither directly nor indirectly oppose or contravene the

the measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress of this Colony, then the above obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

JOHN WILLETT.

Scaled and delivered in the presence of us :

ROBERT BENSON,
JOHN MCKESSON.

Captain *Archibald Hamilton*, attending on the summons, returnable here this day, was called in.

The Chairman informed Captain *Hamilton* of the reasons of his being so summoned, and read to him the resolutions of Congress relative to persons of equivocal character, and told him he was considered as of that number; and that the Committee hoped he would give them satisfactory evidence of his being a friend to *America*.

Captain *Hamilton* thereupon observed that he loved *America*: that he fought and bled and been in irons for her; that he wishes her free and happy; and that no promises or offers of reward or preferment could tempt him to draw his sword against her; that he has refused such offers, and that he holds no office or commission whatever under the King of *Great Britain*; that he has a brother and other near relations now serving in the King's armies, and that he could not think of unsheathing his sword against them or the King.

Captain *Hamilton*, on being asked by the chairman, whether, in his opinion, the Parliament of *Great Britain* have a right to bind these Colonies in all cases whatsoever; said he was not sufficiently acquainted with subjects of that kind to answer the question; but that if he had twenty hearts, he would sooner lose the blood in them all than lose his liberty.

The chairman then asked him whether he would give his parole of honour neither directly nor indirectly to oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress of this Colony; to which he answered that he would very readily, for that he never would injure *America* in word, thought, or deed.

Captain *Hamilton* was then desired to withdraw, and the committee proceeded to take his case into consideration. The result of which was, that they

Resolved

Resolved, That Captain *Hamilton* was not such a friend to the *American* cause as is described in the said resolutions of the Congress; that it was unnecessary that he should be removed from the place of his present residence; that confidence might be reposed in him as a man of honour; and therefore that his parole was sufficient security for his not opposing or contravening the measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress of this Colony.

Captain *Hamilton* was then called in, and on his agreeing to give such parole, it was reduced to writing, and, on his signing it, was discharged.

New-York, June 24, 1776.

I, *Archibald Hamilton*, Esq., do declare upon my honour that I will not, directly or indirectly, oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress or of the Congress of this Colony.

ARCH. HAMILTON.

John Yates, of the *Wallkill* Precinct, in *Ulster* County, labourer, being sworn, saith: That early in this last spring *Abjalom Bull*, one of deponent's neighbours, came to him and told him he was but a poor man, and that if he would go with the said *Bull*, he would make a gentleman of this deponent. That this deponent asked him how. He replied that if this deponent would go and serve the King for three years, or to the end of the *American* war if that should sooner happen, this deponent should have two hundred acres of land on the frontiers. That deponent said it was very uncertain, for he did not see how he was to get a warranty deed for it; but if he could get a warranty deed for two hundred acres of land, he did not know but he might engage. On this they parted. That for many days repeatedly after that, the said *Abjalom Bull*, together with *Ijaac Waugh* and *Richard Bull*, came to this deponent and pressed him to enter into the King's service, but the deponent put them off. That they afterwards went, as they informed this deponent, on board the man-of-war, and when they returned, brought him a letter from Governour *Tryon*, informing this deponent that if he would come on board his ship and pilot the men-of-war up the *North River*, he would give this deponent a dollar a day and five pounds a foot for every foot that the vessel

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he piloted drew more than twenty feet, and should have two hundred acres of land at the determination of the *American* war; and that *Ireland, Scotland and Wales* had all united with *England* to subdue *America*. That this deponent had, till within a few years last past, been a seafaring man, and was well acquainted with the navigation of the *North River*, which was well known to his said neighbours, and, as this deponent believes, was by them made known to Governour *Tryon*. That this deponent afterwards received two other letters of the like import, from Governour *Tryon*. That about six weeks ago this deponent, together with the said *Abraham Bull, Richard Bull, and Isaac Waugh*, travelled from their homes down through *Westchester* County to *White-Stone* Ferry, where they crossed over to *Long-Island*, and thence to *Hempstead*, and went to the house of one *Simonson*, a tavern-keeper, in that town; that they went from thence to the house of Captain *Hulet*, where they all lodged; that the next morning this deponent's companions went off from *Rockaway* in an oyster-boat that plied between that coast and the ships, and supplied them with provisions, as he was informed and believed; that they desired this deponent to go with them, but this deponent being sick, and not much inclined to go on board, said he would wait at Captain *Hulet's* till their return; that after three days they all returned to this deponent at Captain *Hulet's*, aforesaid, and that Colonel *Fanning*, the Governour's secretary, came with them; that the said Colonel *Fanning* was well known to this deponent, he having often seen him, and this deponent having been a mariner in Captain *Hunter's* ship, which brought the Colonel from *England*; that at present this deponent did not know Colonel *Fanning*, he being disguised in the dress of a common labouring man, but on taking this deponent aside he made himself known to him, whereupon this deponent immediately recollected his face and person; that he asked this deponent to go on board with him; this deponent answered that he was too sick to go; that then the Colonel told him that if he could not go then, he must come down when the fleet arrived, and that they would send this deponent a letter to inform him of it, to which this deponent agreed. That Colonel *Fanning* told him *New-York* was to be the seat of war; that some of the fleet would run into the Sound, and land troops on *Long-Island*; that another division would
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land on the south side and hoist the King's Standard; and that all the men that engaged to serve the King should come to *Long-Island* and join them, and that cannon was already provided in different parts of *Long-Island*, and that there were then three field-pieces and a mortar-piece under the floor of the barn of the said *Simonson*. The said Colonel *Fanning* also told this deponent that they should want him to pilot vessels of war up the *North River*, and that the *Savage*, *Phenix*, and *Shuldan* (which, he believes, was formerly the *Rhode-Island* packet) were designed for that service. That the Colonel desired this deponent to bring all the provisions he could on board the ships, and that he should receive the following prices for them, viz., five pounds a barrel for salt pork, one shilling per pound for gammons, eighteen pence per pound for butter, and a good price for fowls, eggs, &c., and then gave this deponent a paper (now delivered) with a seal on it, and the letters W. T. on the back of it, and told this deponent that it would serve him as a pass to go by all the men-of-war and cruisers unmolested. That Colonel *Fanning* further told this deponent that *Abfalom Bull*, afore said, had enlisted a great many men, and desired this deponent to do the like, but this deponent declined it. That this deponent knows *John Clarke*, a painter; that he saw him in this town about a fortnight ago; that he told this deponent he was going on board the ships, and requested this deponent to go with him, which this deponent refused; that he advised this deponent to engage to fight for the King, and said the *Americans* would be beat. That the afore said *Abfalom Bull* this spring showed this deponent a list of persons whom he had enlisted for the King's service; that the said *Abfalom* told this deponent that there were two hundred names on it, which this deponent really believes to be true, but this deponent does not remember the names of any of them, except *Richard Bull*, *Alexander Scadden*, *James Scadden*, *Isaac Waugh*, *John Clarke*, (the painter afore said) *Jewel Smith*, and one *Seely*, of a place in *Orange County*, called *Oxford*. That *Abfalom Bull* afore said was to be a Captain, and had a commission for it from Governour *Tryon*, which he showed to this deponent, and that it was written on parchment, and a great seal hanging to it, but that this deponent did not read it. The said *Abfalom Bull* further said, that all the men so enlisted for the King's service were to join
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the fleet when it arrived, and that all who did not, would be treated as deserters from the King's service.

his
JOHN M. YATES,
mark.

Sworn the 24th *June*, 1776, before us.

JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

To Captain ABREL, of Colonel LASHER's Battalion :

SIR : Whereas — *Simerfon*, of the Township of *Hempstead* in *Queen's* County, Inn-keeper, stands charged with dangerous designs and treasonable conspiracies against the rights and liberties of *America*, and that for the perpetration of such wicked designs and conspiracies he hath divers cannon and other implements of war now concealed : we therefore by virtue of the power and authority unto us given by a resolve of the Congress of this Colony of the 20th of *June* instant, do authorize and require you to cause to be apprehended and secured the said — *Simerfon* with all his papers, and to make search for and take all Cannon and other implements of war whatsoever in his house, barn, and outhouses ; and that return be made to us of the manner in which this warrant shall be executed, in order that the same may be made known to the said Congress.

Given under our hands this 24th day of *June*, 1776.

In the Council-Chamber of the City-Hall of the City of }
New-York, June 25, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment.

Present—*John Jay*, Esq., Chairman ; Mr. *Philip Livingston*, Mr. *Hobart*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Tredwell*, Mr. *Morris*, and Mr. *Gansevoort*.

Mr. *Hobart* and Colonel *Graham* reported a draft of a Warrant to be issued against such persons of equivocal character as may neglect or refuse to appear on summons ; which being read, amended, and agreed to, is in the words following, to wit :

To :

Whereas the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, on the 5th day of *June* instant, did pass certain resolutions, reciting, among other things,
that

that 'whereas there are in this Colony divers persons who, by reason of their holding offices from the King of *Great Britain*—from their having neglected or refused to associate with their fellow-citizens for the defence of their common rights—from their having never manifested, by their conduct, a zeal for, and an attachment to the *American* cause—or from their having maintained an equivocal neutrality, have been considered by their countrymen in a suspicious light—whereby it hath become necessary, as well for the safety as for the satisfaction of the people, (who, in times so dangerous and critical, are naturally led to consider those as their enemies who withhold from them their aid and influence,) that sundry persons in the said resolution named, of which number is one, and also all such other persons of the like character as we, a Committee of the said Congress for that purpose by the resolutions aforesaid duly appointed and authorized, may think proper, be summoned to appear before us at such time and place as we should appoint, then and there to show cause, if any they have, why they should be considered as friends to the *American* cause, and as of the number of those who are ready to risk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America* against the usurpation, unjust claims, and cruel oppressions of the *British* Parliament—which rights and liberties, and which unjust claims, and cruel oppressions, are specified and stated in divers addresses, petitions, and resolutions, of the present and late Continental Congresses;' and in default of appearance, we, the Committee aforesaid, on proof made of the service of the said summons, are authorized and directed to cause them to be arrested and brought before us by warrant under our hands, directed to any militia officer in this Colony, who is, by the said resolves, required to execute the same; and whereas, in pursuance of the resolutions aforesaid of the said Congress, we, the Committee aforesaid, did, on the . . . day of *June* instant, issue our summons to the above mentioned to appear before us at the City-Hall of the City of New-York, on the day of, at o'clock in the noon of the said day to show cause, if any he had, why he should be considered as a friend to the common cause; and which summons was duly served on the said, as appears by the return of, the Messenger of this Congress, thereto duly appointed and sworn; and whereas said did not appear in pursuance
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of the summons aforesaid, but hath made default; We, therefore, the Committee aforesaid, in pursuance of the trust reposed in us by the resolves aforesaid, do authorize and require you forthwith to arrest and bring before us, at the City-Hall of the City of *New-York*, the above-named, for the purpose aforesaid, and to abide such order in the premises as by us may be made; and bring with you then there this warrant.

Given at *New-York*.

Mr. *Hobart* and Colonel *Graham* reported a draft of a summons to persons inimical to the cause and rights of *America*; which being read, was agreed to, and is in the words following, to wit:

Whereas, by certain Resolutions of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, of the 5th day of *June* instant, we, a Committee of the said Congress, were authorized and required to summon certain persons, whose conduct had been represented to the said Congress as inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, of which number you are one, to appear before us at such time and place as we might think proper, then and there to answer to such matters and things as shall be alleged against them, and show cause (if any they have) why they should be considered as friends to the *American* cause: We do, therefore, in pursuance of the trust reposed in us by the said resolutions, summon you to appear before us for the purposes aforesaid, at the City-Hall of the City of *New-York*, on the day of, at o'clock in the forenoon of the same day.

Ordered, That the Secretary prepare all the Summonses directed to be issued to the persons named in the said resolutions of Congress by tomorrow morning.

Ordered, also, That a number of Warrants aforesaid be prepared. The Committee then adjourned for an hour to meet again at *Scott's Tavern*, in *Wall Street*.

George Brewerton, of the City of *New-York*, Esquire, being examined saith: That he never was engaged in any design of inlisting men to serve the King against the *Americans*; nor was he otherwise acquainted with the existence of any such design, except in the following manner: Captain *Benjon*, about three weeks ago, told this examinant he had heard that *Gilbert Forbes* was employed in inlisting men for the King's service, and

and asked this examinant whether he knew anything of it. That examinant told him he knew nothing of the matter, and that if *Forbes* had engaged in that business he was a fool. That this examinant afterwards asked *Forbes* about it, and told him if he enlisted any men in that way he did wrong. That *Forbes* replied, that there was nothing in it, and that he was not engaged in any such business. That this deponent, instead of aiding the Ministerial armies, had advised and persuaded men to enlist in the Continental service; and without being applied to by the Committee for that purpose did dispose of seven or eight firelocks to be employed in the defence of the *American* cause, and would have remained in this city and assisted in defending it had it not been for the late riotous proceedings against persons suspected of being Tories, under which suspicion this examinant had fallen, as he supposes, from his refusing to sign the Association of the Committee of Safety, to which he, as well as many other good friends to the cause, refused to subscribe.

That this examinant has signed the first Association, and has no objection to signing the last, in common with his fellow citizens. That about five weeks ago, *David Matthews*, Esq., asked this examinant whether he knew *Forbes*. That this deponent said he knew most of the *Forbeses*; and asked Mr. *Matthews* why. He said that he had an account against Governour *Tryon*, and that the Governour had sent money by him to pay *Forbes*. That the examinant then asked Mr. *Matthews* how the Governour came to owe him money. He replied that he believed it was for rifle-guns that he had sent him. On which this examinant observed that it must be *Gilbert Forbes*, the gunsmith; and that this examinant said he did not take him for such a fellow. Mr. *Matthews* said that he was also much surprised. Examinant said he would speak to *Forbes*. That examinant afterwards saw *Forbes*, and asked him whether he had an account against Governor *Tryon*; to which he answered no. That examinant asked him if he had not sent things to the Governour; to which he said no. That examinant then said he thought he had heard the Mayor say he had received money for him from Governour *Tryon*. *Forbes* then confessed that the Governour owed him money. Examinant then left him without further questions. That some time afterwards examinant received a few lines from Mr. Mayor, with some money, informing this examinant that he was going out of town, and requesting him

him to deliver it to *Forbes*, which examinant did. That this examinant does not remember that the Mayor desired him to dissuade *Forbes* from the prosecution of any designs against *America*; but that this examinant did, as aforesaid, of his own accord, call upon *Forbes*, and so dissuade him as above related.

This examinant most solemnly declares that he never entertained or was concerned in any design whatever against the interest and safety of *America*.

GEORGE BREWERTON.

Taken before us the 25th of *June*, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Know all men by these presents, that we, *George Brewerton* and *Jacob Brewerton* of the City of *New-York*, Esquires, are held and firmly bound unto *John Haring*, Esq., President of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, in the sum of five hundred pounds, lawful money of the Colony of *New-York*, to be paid to the said *John Haring*, his executors, administrators, or assigns; for the payment whereof we do bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally by these presents. Sealed with our seals, and dated the 25th day of *June*, 1776.

The condition of this obligation is such, that if the above bounden *George Brewerton* shall, upon reasonable notice unto him given, or left at the usual place of his abode, attend the Provincial Congress, or a Committee of the said Congress, at such time and place as he shall be required, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in force.

GEORGE BREWERTON,
JACOB BREWERTON.

Scaled and delivered in the presence of

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

Whereas *George Brewerton*, Esquire, stood charged before us with
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being privy to certain dangerous designs and treasonable conspiracies against the rights and liberties of *America*; and whereas, after strict inquiry into the several allegations against the said *George Brewerton*, we are of opinion that the said charge is not well founded: We, therefore, in justice to the said *George Brewerton*, do hereby certify the same. And as the said *George Brewerton*, together with *Jacob Brewerton*, have given bond to the President of the Congress of this Colony for the appearance of him, the said *George Brewerton*, before the Congress of this Colony whenever called upon, for his good behaviour as a friend to the *American* cause, do dismiss him from all further attendance upon us.

Given under our hands the 25th day of *June*, 1776.

To Mr. WYNANT VAN ZANDT, a Lieutenant in Colonel Lasher's BATTALION:

Whereas *Nicholas Connery*, of the City of *New-York*, Innkeeper, stands charged before us, by the oath of *Hugh Stevenson*, with having sold to the said *Hugh* certain quantities of gunpowder, which there is great reason to suspect the said *Nicholas* obtained from the enemies of *America*, and for the purpose of injuring its cause; and whereas it is represented to us that the said *Nicholas* is notoriously disaffected to the *American* cause: We do, therefore, in pursuance of a certain resolve of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, authorize and require you to apprehend the said *Nicholas Connery*, and make diligent search in his dwelling-house and other buildings for gunpowder, and other implements of war, and the same in safe custody to keep, and the said *Nicholas* forthwith to bring before us, to the end that we may inquire into the premises, and make such order in the premises as may be necessary; and make your returns to us of the manner in which you shall execute this warrant.

Given under our hands this 25th day of *June*, 1776.

JOHN JAY,

GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City of *NEW-YORK*, ss:

James Campbell and *Alexander Anderson* being duly sworn upon the Holy Evangelists, do depose, that they, together with *Michael Tromper*
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and

and *Abraham Brewer*, somewhere about the 2d or 3d day of *May*, were in company at the house of Mr. *Ellsworth* at *Paulus-Hook*; that while there, *John Taylor* came in, and after calling for wine, and pressing them to drink, pulled out a good many bills, declaring that he had then five hundred pounds about him, which he had received for lands sold by him in *Morris* County; that he had been up there twice before, and received in all upwards of seventeen hundred pounds, and that he expected to go up again and receive more. That these deponents were much surprised to hear the said *Taylor* make such declarations, as they took him to be in low circumstances, and knew him to be a man of infamous character. That the said *Taylor* was then armed with pistols and a cutlass, and gave as a reason for carrying those arms that he was afraid of being insulted upon the road. And the said *James Campbell* further saith that he believes the said *John Taylor* to be greatly disaffected to the *American* cause, as the said *Taylor* is intimate with *Gilbert Forbes* and others of the like stamp. And further he saith, that, at the time above-mentioned, the said *John Taylor* pulled out a purse, in which was gold and silver, about three inches deep and three or four inches in diameter; and further these deponents, or either of them, say not.

JAMES CAMPBELL,
ALEXANDER ANDERSON.

Sworn before us, the 25th day of *June*, 1776:

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

City-Hall, New-York, June 26, 1776.

The Committee met pursuant to adjournment; and, for want of room, adjourned to *Scott's Tavern*: Present, Mr. *Philip Livingston*, Mr. *Tredwell*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Randall*, Mr. *Gansevoort*.

The gentlemen present unanimously chose *Leonard Gansevoort*, Esq., Chairman *pro tempore*.

The Committee resumed the consideration of the case of Doctor *Samuel Martin*. The proceedings of yesterday as to Mr. *Martin* were read; and the Committee resumed the question, the determination of which was postponed yesterday, and the same question was put by the Chairman.

And

And thereupon, *Resolved, unanimously*, That it is not necessary to remove Doctor *Samuel Martin* from the place of his present residence, as there is not any proof offered or known to this Committee that he has broken the condition of his bond given to the President of the Congress of this Colony on the 17th day of *February* last.

Resolved, unanimously, That Dr. *Martin's* parole be taken that he will not, directly or indirectly, oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress of this Colony; and that his parole, together with the above mentioned bond, is sufficient security.

Doctor *Martin* was called in, and signed a copy of his Parole, which is in the words following, viz:

New York, June 26, 1776.

I, *Samuel Martin*, of *Hempstead*, on *Nassau Island*, Physician, do declare, upon my honour, that I will not, directly or indirectly, oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress, or of the Congress of this Colony.

SAMUEL MARTIN.

A certified copy of which Parole was given to the said *Samuel Martin*. Mr. *Martin* then requested that some certificate might be given to him to prevent his being molested by any persons while his conduct shall be agreeable to his parole.

Thereupon a Certificate was given to Mr. *Martin* in the words following, viz:

In a Special Committee of the Colony of New-York, }
June 26, 1776.

Whereas *Samuel Martin*, of *Far Rockaway*, in *Hempstead*, on *Nassau Island*, Physician, did on the 17th day of *February* last, give bond with security to the President of the Congress of this Colony, with condition thereto to behave himself peaceably, and make no opposition to the measures of the Continental Congress of the United Colonies or of the Congress of this Colony of *New-York*, or to instigate others so to do; and whereas the said *Samuel Martin* also this day hath given his parole to the said Congress of this Colony that he will not, directly or indirectly, oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress or of the Congress of this Colony: Therefore it is hereby recommended to all friends of the United Colonies, and to all other persons whomsoever, not to molest,

left, interrupt, or disturb the said *Samuel Martin* while he continues to fulfil the condition of his said bond, and to observe and keep his parole of honour.

Ordered, That Summons do issue, &c.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

Know all men by these presents, that we, *James Matthews*, of *Matthewsfield*, in the Precinct of *Cornwall*, in the County of Orange, gentleman, and *Nathaniel Strong*, of *Blooming-Grove*, in the Precinct and County aforesaid, Esquires, are held and firmly bound unto *John Haring*, Esq., President of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, in the sum of five hundred pounds, lawful money of *New-York*, to be paid to the said *John Haring*, his executors, administrators, or assigns; for the payment of which sum we do bind ourselves, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals, dated the 26th day of *June*, 1776.

The condition of the above obligation is such, that if the above bounden *James Matthews* shall, on reasonable notice to him given, or left at the usual place of his abode, attend the Congress of this Colony for the time being, or a Committee thereof hereunto duly authorized and appointed, and answer such matters as may be alleged against him, and, in the mean time, shall neither directly nor indirectly contravene or oppose the measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress of this Colony, but, on the contrary, shall approve himself a good friend to the *American* cause, then the above obligation shall be void, otherwise remain in full force and virtue.

JAMES MATTHEWS,
NATHANIEL STRONG.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.

I, *James Matthews*, Esquire, of *Orange* County, in the Colony of *New York*, do most solemnly declare that the claims of the *British* Parliament to bind, at their discretion, the People of the United Colonies in *America* in all cases whatsoever, are, in my opinion, absurd, unjust and tyrannical; and that the hostile attempts of their fleets and armies to enforce submission to those wicked and ridiculous claims ought to be resisted by arms;
and

and, therefore, I do engage and associate, under all the ties which I hold sacred, to defend by arms these United Colonies against the said hostile attempts, agreeable to such laws and regulations as my Representatives in the Congresses or future General Assemblies of this Colony have, or shall, for that purpose, make and establish.

JAMES MATTHEWS.

New York, June 26, 1776.

Israel Young being sworn, saith: That when he was first put into the Jail of this city, viz: about six weeks ago, he was confined there in the same room with *Thomas Vernon*, of the city of *New York*, hostler; that the said *Thomas* asked this deponent where he came from; deponent told him he was born and brought up in *Queen's* County; he asked this deponent if he knew *John Hulet* and *Richard Hulet*; deponent said he did, particularly *John*, for deponent's brother had married his daughter; that the said *Vernon* thereupon spoke very freely to this deponent on the subject of politics, and said he would be damned if the fleet did not come soon and let them all out; he confessed to this deponent that he had several times been on board the *Dutchess of Gordon*, where he had seen *Richard Hulet* and *Thomas Cornell*; that he also seen Governour *Tryon* often, and that the Governour would talk very free with them; that they had on board a number of *Rivington's* types and one of his printers; that he had written a letter to the Governour the *Monday* before for money, and that he expected the next day to receive it; that the next day the said *Thomas* received a letter which he said was from the Governour, and also some water-work money, which he said they counterfeited on board the *Dutchess*, and he himself had seen them printing it off; that they had a chest of it. This deponent says that the money aforesaid resembled the said water-work money so much that he should have taken it for genuine, but that the paper seemed to be rather thicker. The said *Vernon* further told this deponent that he kept a periagua, and he used to go after sand, and so he got on board the *Dutchess*.

And this deponent further saith: That the said *Vernon* told him they were enlisting men in the King's service, and that a Captain in Colonel *McDougall's* Regiment, whose name this deponent cannot recollect, had a commission from Governour *Tryon* for that purpose; that a man, whom the said *Vernon* told this deponent was the said Captain, came one day to

to the door of the room in which this deponent and the said *Vernon* were confined, and conversed with the said *Vernon* through the hole of the door, but this deponent did not overhear them; that when he went away, *Vernon* told this deponent that was the Captain who was in-lifting men for Governour *Tryon*, and that he had got a hundred. The said *Vernon* also told this deponent that he had, by Governour *Tryon's* order, engaged with *Dawkins*, an engraver, who had been taken up on a charge of counterfeiting money, to go on board the *Dutchess* and cut money plates for the Governour, and that the Governour was to give the said *Dawkins* a hundred pounds for his trouble; and that the said *Vernon* was to have carried him on board had not *Dawkins* got drunk and told him that he (the said *Vernon*) was going to carry him on board, which being made known to him (the said *Vernon*), he was afraid to attempt carrying him off at the time appointed, and that *Dawkins* immediately after disappeared. The said *Vernon* further told this deponent that he was in jail with *Dawkins* before, that *Dawkins* left his chest open, and that he, (*Vernon*) intending to take something out of his chest and make him treat him for giving it to him again, opened the chest and found in it a plate to strike *Pennsylvania* money, and kept it near a week; that *Dawkins* when he missed it, was very uneasy, and he (the said *Vernon*) again delivered it to him.

This deponent further says: That when *Thomas Hickey* and *Michael Lynch*, of the General's Guards, were apprehended for money-making, they were confined in the same room with this deponent; that they then cursed and swore a great deal and damned themselves if they would ever fight any more for *America*; that this deponent talked Tory with them, and by that means they came to confide in him; that *Hickey* and *Lynch* said there were near seven hundred men enlisted for the King, and that the night before the fleet arrived they were to have notice of it, that they were to repair towards *King's Bridge* and join them; and that some of the fleet were to go up the *North River*, and another party up the *East River*, and so surround the Island. Deponent understood from them that they were both enlisted, and their names sent on board the man-of-war. They also said that the *Army* was very corrupt, and spoke very slightly of Colonel *McDougall's* Regiment. That when the news came to their room that the plot was discovered, and that the Congress had taken up some

some of them, the said *Hickey* and *Lynch* seemed to be a good deal uneasy, but they comforted themselves in this: *Lynch* said they had not got his name, for it was gone on board the man-of-war, and *Hickey* said if they had got his name it was not of his writing, and therefore neither of them could be hurt. *Lynch* further said that if the guards came to be a little thinner he would make his escape through the windows.

ISRAEL YOUNGS.

Sworn the 26th day of *June*, 1776.

JOHN JAY,

GOVERNOR. MORRIS.

Gilbert Forbes being again examined, further said: That he knows one — *Silk*; that he was left by Captain *Aidey* to wait upon his wife, who lives on *Long-Island*, somewhere near *Hempstead*; that he is often in town, frequently at Mrs. *Oiry's* and Mrs. *Brandon's*, has the air of a soldier, wears a short brown hunting coat and a double breasted jacket of the same colour; that he used to wait on a Mr. *Miller*, who lives or lodges in Mr. *Gouverneur's* house on *Rotten Row*; that Sergeant *Grabam* (an old soldier, discharged from the Royal Artillery) was employed by Governor *Tryon* to speak to examinant about enlisting men for the King's service, and told this examinant, from the Governor, that if this examinant exerted himself in that business and raised a number of men, he should have a company; that the said Sergeant also informed him that, at the request of the Governor, he had surveyed the ground and works about this city and on *Long-Island*, in consequence of which he had concerted a plan for an attack, which he had given to Governor *Tryon*, and of which the Governor approved, which was as follows, viz: that the man-of-war should cannonade the battery at *Red Hook*, and while that was doing a detachment of the Army, with some cannon, &c., should land below or about *Red Hook*, and march round so as to come upon the back of the batteries, near *Swedeland House*; that a small part of the detachment should make a feint of marching up the road leading directly to the battery, but the main body were to make a circuitous march so as to reach the battery while our attention was engaged by the feint aforesaid; that if they carried that battery, which they expected to take by storm, they

they were immediately to attack the battery on the hill near the ferry, which the Sergeant said would be easily done, as no embrasures were made or cannon fixed on the back side of it; that this latter battery, when in their possession, would command the works on *Governour's Island*, which they would keep between two fires, viz: the battery last mentioned on the one side, and the shipping on the other; that then the shipping, with the remainder of the Army, were to divide, one division was to run up the *Norib River* and land at or near about *Clarke's farm*, and march directly to *Enclenbergb Hall*, and fortify there; the other division was to run up the *East River* and land in such manner as to gain a footing on *Jones's Hill*, from whence they expected to command and silence the battery on *Bayard's Hill*; that should they gain possession of the places above-mentioned, their next object would be the grounds adjacent to *King's Bridge*, where they intend to erect strong works, so as to cut off the communication between the city and country.

Gilbert Forbes, being further examined, said: That some time before the man-of-war removed from the town to the *Narrows*, one *Webb*, a burr-millstone maker, told examinant that if he had any rifles to sell he might get a good price for them by sending them on board the man-of-war, and that a young man who lived with *James Rivington* told him the same; that this examinant had then nine rifles, which he made, but they were bad and would not shoot straight, and eleven smooth narrow-bored guns; that he sent some of them to one *Mrs. Beck's*, a tavern-keeper, near the *Fly Market*, with orders to send them on board, which she according did, and that the said *Webb* carried the remainder; that the said *Webb* told this examinant that *Governour Tryon* would give him three guineas apiece for them; that at the time when an exchange of prisoners took place with the man-of-war, and *Lilly* was, among others, exchanged, the Mayor, viz: *David Matthews, Esq.*, sent for this examinant and told him he was going on board the *Governour's ship*, and that he would get the money due from the *Governour* to this examinant for the rifles aforesaid; that on his return the Mayor told this examinant he would pay him in a few days; that this examinant never did receive any money from him for the said fire-arms; that this examinant told *Charles Benjon* that he was about insisting men, and that he told this examinant it would do.

GILBERT FORBES.

Examined

Examined by and before me, this 29th June, 1776.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON.

Thursday, A. M., June 27, 1776.

The Committee met at the City-Hall, in the Council Chamber, pursuant to adjournment.

Present: *Leonard Gansevoort*, Esq., Chairman *pro tempore*, Mr. *Livingston*, Mr. *Randall*, Mr. *Morris*, Colonel *Graham*, Mr. *Tredwell*.

Mr. *Axtell* attending according to the order of this Committee of the 24th instant, was called in. He says that he is of the same opinion that he was when last before this Committee as to the signing of the parole which was offered to him — as his signing the parole might be construed on the other side of the water an overt act, and made use of to forfeit his estate there.

Mr. *Axtell* further says that he is ready to give his parole not to take any active part against this country, or to do anything inconsistent with the duty of a good citizen.

Mr. *Axtell*, at the request of the Committee, withdrew.

The Committee then took Mr. *Axtell's* particular case into consideration; and after some time spent therein, the Committee agree that the particular situation of Mr. *Axtell's* estate and property is such as, in the opinion of this Committee, requires a particular provision in his case, which it is not in the power of this Committee to make. That therefore, this Committee will state his case (concealing his name) to the Congress of this Colony for their direction in the premises, and, in the mean time, discharge Mr. *Axtell* on his parole to attend this Committee on receipt of a letter or notice for that purpose.

Mr. *Axtell* was called in, and informed of the present determination of the Committee, and promised the Committee to attend them again at any time on request.

Mr. *Axtell* then further offered to the Committee, if it was thought necessary that he should remove from his present place of residence, he was very ready to remove with his family up *Hudson River*, or to any other County in the Colony, and to have limits assigned to him; but that it would be disagreeable to him to remove out of the Colony. Mr.

P

Axtell

Axtell further says that if all the estate he was possessed of was in America only, he would not hesitate to determine the matter and fully express his sentiments, which, in his opinion, it is not proper for him to do in his present situation.

Ordered, That Summonses issue against the following persons of equivocal character, returnable on *Saturday*, the 29th instant, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, viz: *Charles Nicoll, Donald McClean*, and *Peter Graham*.

Which said summonses, signed by all the Members present as aforesaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to give them to the Messenger to be served.

Ordered, That Summonses issue against the following persons as inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, returnable on *Monday*, the 1st day of *July*, next, at ten o'clock in the morning of that day, viz: *Theophilus Bache, Charles Arden, John More*, Sen., and *Benjamin Williams*.

Which said summonses, signed by all the Members present as aforesaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to give them to the Messenger to be served.

Ordered, That summonses issue against the following persons as inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, returnable on *Wednesday*, the 3d day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, viz: *Frederick Philpse* and *Samuel Merrit*.

Which said Summonses, signed by all the members present as aforesaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver them to the Messenger to be served.

Ordered, That a Summons be issued to *Richard Morris*, Esq., as a person of equivocal character, returnable on *Wednesday*, the 3d day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

Which said Summons, signed by all the Members present as aforesaid, was delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver it to the Messenger to be served.

Ordered, That a summons be issued to *Solomon Fowler*, as a person of equivocal character, returnable on *Thursday*, the 4th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day.

Which said Summons, signed by all the Members present as aforesaid,
was

was delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver it to the Messenger to be served.

Ordered, That Summonses issue against the following persons as inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, returnable on *Thursday*, the said 4th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, viz: *Nathaniel Underhill*, *James Horton*, Jun., and *William Sutton*.

Which said Summonses, signed by all the Members present as aforesaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver them to the Messenger to be served.

Ordered, That Summonses be issued to the following persons as inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, returnable on *Friday*, the 5th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, viz: *Peter Corne* and *Peter Huggefjord*.

Which said Summonses, signed by all the Members present as aforesaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver them to the Messenger to be served.

Ordered, That Summonses issue against the following persons as inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, returnable on *Saturday*, the 6th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, viz: *William Barker*, *Joshua Purdy*, and *Abraham Gidney*.

Which said Summonses, signed by all the Members present as aforesaid, were delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver them to the Messenger to be served.

Lastly, *Ordered*, That a Summons be issued to the Honourable *William Smith*, as a person of equivocal character, returnable on *Saturday*, the 6th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the same day.

Which said summons, signed by all the Members present as aforesaid, was delivered to the Secretary, with directions to deliver it to the Messenger to be served.

Ordered, That the Secretary prepare a state of the case of *William Axtell*, Esq., (but concealing his name) to be laid before the Congress of this Colony for their direction in the premises.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

A case stated by the Committee appointed by the Congress of this Colony

Colony to carry into execution their Resolutions of the 5th day of *June* instant, relative to persons inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, and those of equivocal character: A. B., holding an honorary office from the King of *Great-Britain*, and being a gentleman of fortune, was summoned to appear before your Committee, and appeared at the time and place for that purpose appointed.

On his appearance before your said Committee, the Chairman informed him of the Resolutions of this Congress as to persons of equivocal character, and desired him to give evidence of his being a friend to the *American* cause. The gentleman appealed to the uniform tenour of his conduct, which he said, had never been unfriendly to his country. Being then asked whether he approves of the *American* opposition, he replied that he did not on the whole, and signified a disapprobation of the *Canada* expedition. On being asked whether the Parliament of *Great Britain*, in his opinion, have a right to bind these Colonies in all cases whatsoever, he said that, in his opinion, they had not; that he fully approved of the first part of the Association resolved on by this Congress on the 20th day of *June*, instant. On being asked whether a resistance, by arms, to the hostile attempts of the *British* fleets and armies to enforce and execute their claims and demands was justifiable, he declined to give an answer, but declared that the bulk of his fortune was in *Great Britain* and the *West Indies*, and that he did not mean to take an active part on either side.

Your Committee thereupon resolved that he is not such a friend to the *American* cause as is described in your said resolutions of the 5th instant; that his removal from his present place of residence was unnecessary; and that his parole, in the words directed by your said resolutions, was sufficient security.

The gentleman assigned objections to give his parole, and said he would submit to such a disposition of him as your Committee should make. He then had two days allowed him to consider of the said parole, at which time he returned to your said Committee.

On his return to your Committee the gentleman was of the same opinion as before, and said he could not consent to give his parole "not to oppose or contravene the measures of the Continental Congress or the Congress

Congress of this Colony ;" as his giving or signing such parole might, in his apprehension, be construed on the other side of the water to be an overt act, and made use of to forfeit his estate there.

The gentleman offered to your Committee to give his parole not to take any active part against this country, or do anything inconsistent with the duty of a good citizen.

He further voluntarily offered that if it was thought necessary that he should remove from his present place of residence, he was willing to move with his family to any County in the Colony, and to have limits assigned to him ; but intimated that it would be disagreeable to him to remove out of the Colony. He also informed your Committee that if his whole estate was in the *American Colonies* only he would not hesitate to determine the matter, and fully express his sentiments, which in his opinion, it is not proper for him to do in the present situation of his affairs.

Your Committee believe the gentleman to be a man of high honour and integrity ; and have not the least doubt but that any parole which he will consent to give, he will hold sacred and perform : and he is to attend your Committee again on notice. But in the execution of the said resolves they have now no alternative but a warrant and force against the gentleman, and confinement. The policy of this measure your Committee submit to Congress, and request their directions in the premises.

Mr. NATHANIEL UNDERHILL :

Whereas, by certain resolutions of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, of the 5th day of *June* instant, we, a Committee of the said Congress, were authorized and required to summon certain persons, whose conduct had been represented to the said Congress as inimical to the cause and rights of *America*, (of which number you are one) to appear before us at such time and place as we might think proper, then and there to answer such matters and things as should be alleged against them ; and to show cause, if any they have, why they should be considered as friends to the American cause : We do, therefore, in pursuance of the trust reposed in us by the said resolutions, summon you to appear before us, for the purposes aforesaid, at the City-Hall of the City of *New-York*, on *Thursday*,
day,

day, the 4th day of *July* next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon of the same day. Dated the 27th day of *June*, 1776.

LEONARD GANSEVOORT,	GOV'R MORRIS,
PHIL. LIVINGSTON,	THOMAS TREDWELL,
THOMAS RANDALL,	LEWIS GRAHAM.

Summonses were also issued against the following persons: *William Bayard*, Esq., *William Newton*, *Frederick Rhinelander*, Mr. *Christopher Benson*, Mr. *John Woods*, Mr. *James Coggeshall*, Mr. *Samuel Burling*, *Theophilus Hardenbrook*, Mr. *John Milner*, Mr. *Benjamin James*, (*New-York* or *Flatbush*,) *David Beatty*, (*Hempstead, Long Island*,) *Linus King*, (*New-York*,) *John Baltus Dasz*, (*New-York*,) and *Henry Low*.

To Mr. SOLOMON FOWLER, at EAST-CHESTER:

Sir: By virtue of the authority vested in us by certain resolutions of the Congress of the Colony of *New-York*, of the 5th day of *June*, in the year of our Lord 1776, reciting, that whereas there are in this Colony divers persons who by reason of their holding offices from the King of *Great-Britain* — from their having neglected or refused to associate with their fellow citizens for the defence of their common rights — from their having never manifested by their conduct a zeal for, and an attachment to, the *American* cause — or from their having maintained an equivocal neutrality, have been considered by their countrymen in a suspicious light, whereby it hath become necessary, as well for the safety as for the satisfaction of the people, (who, in times so dangerous and critical, are naturally led to consider those as their enemies who withhold from them their aid and influence,) that certain persons in the said resolutions named, (of whom you are one,) who are generally supposed to come under the above description, should be summoned by a certain Committee to show cause, if any they have, why they should be considered as friends to the *American* cause, and as of the number of those who are ready to risk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America* against the usurpation, unjust claims, and cruel oppressions of the *British* Parliament, which rights and liberties and which unjust claims and cruel oppressions, are specified and stated in divers addresses, petitions, and remonstrances, of the present and late Continental Congresses, and directing

recting certain proceedings in the said resolutions specified to be by the said Committee had against such of the said persons as the said Committee shall not adjudge and determine to be friends to the *American* cause : We do, therefore, in pursuance of the said resolutions, summon you to appear before us, at the City-Hall in *New-York*, on *Thursday*, the 4th day of *July* next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the said day, to show cause, if any you have, why you should be considered as a friend to the *American* cause, and of the number of those who are ready to risk their lives and fortunes in defence of the rights and liberties of *America* against the usurpation, unjust claims, and cruel oppressions of the British Parliament, which rights and liberties and which unjust claims and cruel oppressions are, as aforesaid, specified and stated in divers addresses, petitions and resolutions, of the present and late Continental Congresses. Dated the 27th day of *June*, 1776.

LEONARD GANSEVOORT,
PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
THOMAS TREDWELL,

LEWIS GRAHAM,
GOUVERNEUR MORRIS.
THOMAS RANDALL.

To Colonel WILLIAM ALLISON :

Whereas it is represented to us that *David Baldwin* of *Bergen County*, in *New-Jersey*, but now in the City of *New-York*, can give very useful and important intelligence respecting the late discovered conspiracy against the rights and liberties of *America* : We do, therefore, in pursuance of a resolve of the Congress of this Colony, authorize and request you to bring the said *David Baldwin* forthwith before us, that he may be examined touching the said conspiracy.

Given under our hands this 29th *June*, 1776 :

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY.

The information of Mr. *David Baldwin* : Saith he has had reasons for some time past to believe there was a correspondence kept up between the people of *Ramapo* and the men-of-war, as well from the temper of the people as from many words dropped from time to time. He says that about the 17th instant he was told that *Lawrence Van Buskirk*, the miller

millar at *Ramapo*, Abraham Van Buskirk, and a schoolmaster, and Thomas Van Buskirk, at *Saddle River*, were going on board the man-of-war; that something prevented all but the schoolmaster, who he verily believes did go, and that there is one *Peter Van Buskirk* living at or near the Hook or mouth of the Kills in *Bergen* County, who, it is frequently said, has followed trading with the men-of-war, who has reason to believe, carries people on board whenever requested, and has a sufficient craft for that purpose; and that this informant came to *New-York* on purpose to let it be known; that on his way he stopped at *Erl's* in *Bergen* woods, where he was drinking to-day, in company with *Francis Stephens*, late a resident of this city, who took him (the said *Baldwin*) to be friendly to the Tory side, when said *Stephens* told *Baldwin* that there were fifty sail of King's ships near the Hook and that there would soon be one hundred and fifty sail at *New-York*; that *Erl's* said rum came from on board the man-of-war this week; that *Stephens* charged the informant not to mention it to some certain friends of his in *New-York*.

Sworn the 29th *June*, 1776, before us.

PHILIP LIVINGSTON,
JOHN JAY.

Joseph Baldwin, opposite the King's stores, tallow-chandler, is brother to the within informant, and will go on any expedition.

List of prisoners sent by Lieutenant-Colonel CARY to Brigadier-General GREENE, June 29, 1776.

Joseph Dorlant, and *John Hutchins* from *Jamaica* jail.

John Carman, received powder, and absconded in the woods.

Andrew Allen, disaffected person, taken in the woods.

Jacob Lamberston, found with his gun charged.

Benjamin Pedet, in the swamp in the fight, and had powder from man-of-war.

Ezekiel Rainer, in the woods hid.

Richard Smith, in the swamp battle, and had powder from the *Asia*.

Jeremiab Bedle, a disaffected person.

Daniel Smith, in the swamp battle.

Elijah Rainer, hid in the swamp.

Joseph

(III)

Joseph Beale, same, disaffected person.

Nathan Smith, received powder from the *Assis*, absconded in the woods, and appears to know much of the scheme.

Townsend Wicki, a damned rascal, and the greatest Tory.

William McKoon, *Thomas Fleet*, *John Fleet*, *Peter Wheeler*, *Samuel Townsend*, declared that they would sooner fight for the *King* than the *Congress*, and totally deny the authority of that body.

James Coggeshall, gun-stealer, or informer, from *Newport*.

Henry Dearling, said General *Washington* was more concerned in the conspiracy than any one.

To Brig. Gen. *Greene*, Head-Quarters, *Long-Island*.

Hempstead, June 29, 1776.

June 30, 1776—Referred to the determination of the Congress of this Colony.

T. MIFFLIN, Brig. Gen.



No. 13.

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